

By Senator Rodriguez

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Sunshine Scholarship Program;
3 creating s. 1009.894, F.S.; establishing the Sunshine
4 Scholarship Program for specified purposes; requiring
5 the Department of Education to administer the program;
6 providing student eligibility requirements; requiring
7 a student to repay the scholarship amount under
8 certain circumstances; providing that the program
9 applies only to a student's tuition; providing for
10 funding; providing for rulemaking; providing an
11 effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Section 1009.894, Florida Statutes, is created
16 to read:

17 1009.894 Sunshine Scholarship Program.—

18 (1) There is established the Sunshine Scholarship Program
19 to be administered by the Department of Education. The Sunshine
20 Scholarship Program shall provide funding for 100 percent of an
21 eligible student's tuition at a Florida College System
22 institution for up to 72 credit hours for an associate degree
23 program and 120 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree program
24 after all other available federal and state financial aid awards
25 and grants have been applied.

26 (2) To be eligible to receive a scholarship pursuant to
27 this section, a student must:

28 (a) Be a resident for tuition purposes, as defined in s.
29 1009.21.

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30 (b) Have a total annual household income equal to or less
31 than \$125,000.

32 (c) Be accepted by and enroll in a Florida College System
33 institution.

34 (d) Enroll in at least 30 credit hours per academic year.

35 (e) Have submitted a Free Application for Federal Student
36 Aid (FASFA).

37 (3) Upon completion of his or her program of study or upon
38 disenrollment from the Florida College System institution, the
39 student must reside and work within the state for the same
40 period of time he or she received funds from the program. If the
41 student does not reside and work within the state for the
42 specified period, the student must repay the total amount
43 awarded, plus an annual interest rate equal to the student's
44 federal student loan interest rate in effect when the student
45 entered the program. This subsection does not apply to a student
46 who enlists in the United States Armed Forces.

47 (4) To remain eligible for the program, a student must
48 maintain the equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of
49 2.5 on a 4.0 scale while enrolled at the Florida College System
50 institution and must submit an annual FASFA.

51 (5) The Sunshine Scholarship Program applies only to
52 tuition. Each student is responsible for additional student
53 fees, textbooks, and other college-related expenses.

54 (6) Funding for the program shall be as provided in the
55 General Appropriations Act.

56 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
57 administer this section.

58 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.