

By Senator Braynon

35-00883-18

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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 an exception;  
9           providing that the program applies only to a student's  
10          tuition; providing for funding; requiring the State  
11          Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an  
12          effective date.

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

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

18           1009.894 Sunshine Scholarship Program.—

19           (1) There is established the Sunshine Scholarship Program  
20 to be administered by the Department of Education. The Sunshine  
21 Scholarship Program shall provide funding for 100 percent of an  
22 eligible student's tuition at a Florida College System  
23 institution for up to 72 credit hours for an associate degree  
24 program and 120 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree program.

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

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

29           (b) Have a total annual household income equal to or less

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30 than \$125,000.

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

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

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

44 (4) To remain eligible for the program, a student must  
45 maintain the equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of  
46 2.5 on a 4.0 scale while enrolled at the Florida College System  
47 institution.

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

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

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

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