

By Senator Rodrigues

27-00652A-21

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to postsecondary education; amending  
3       s. 1009.25, F.S.; clarifying fee exemptions for the  
4       Department of Children and Families; creating s.  
5       1009.30, F.S.; providing legislative findings;  
6       establishing the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program;  
7       providing for the administration of the program;  
8       providing for the reimbursement of tuition and costs  
9       to eligible postsecondary institutions; requiring  
10      students participating in dual enrollment programs to  
11      meet specified minimum eligibility requirements in  
12      order for institutions to receive reimbursements;  
13      requiring participating institutions to annually  
14      report specified information to the Department of  
15      Education by certain dates; providing a reimbursement  
16      schedule for tuition and instructional materials  
17      costs; requiring the Department of Education to  
18      reimburse institutions by specified dates; providing  
19      that reimbursement for dual enrollment courses is  
20      contingent upon appropriations; providing for the  
21      prorating of reimbursements under certain  
22      circumstances; requiring the State Board of Education  
23      to adopt rules; creating s. 1012.978, F.S.;  
24      authorizing university boards of trustees to implement  
25      a bonus scheme for state university system employees  
26      based on awards for work performance or employee  
27      recruitment and retention; requiring a board of  
28      trustees to submit the bonus scheme to the Board of  
29      Governors; requiring the Board of Governors to approve

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30 such bonus scheme before its implementation; providing  
31 an effective date.

32  
33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

34  
35 Section 1. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of  
36 section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

37 1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

38 (1) The following students are exempt from the payment of  
39 tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that  
40 provides workforce education programs, Florida College System  
41 institution, or state university:

42 (c) A student who is,   or was at the time he or she reached  
43 18 years of age,   in the custody of the Department of Children  
44 and Families or who, after spending at least 6 months in the  
45 custody of the department after reaching 16 years of age, was  
46 placed in a guardianship by the court. Such exemption includes  
47 fees associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult  
48 education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the  
49 student reaches 28 years of age.

50 (d) A student who is,   or was at the time he or she reached  
51 18 years of age,   in the custody of a relative or nonrelative  
52 under s. 39.5085 or s. 39.6225 or who was adopted from the  
53 Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997. Such  
54 exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied  
55 academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains  
56 valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.

57 Section 2. Section 1009.30, Florida Statutes, is created to  
58 read:

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59       1009.30 Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program.-

60       (1) The Legislature finds and declares that dual enrollment  
61 is an integral part of the education system in this state and  
62 should be available for all eligible secondary students without  
63 cost to the student. There is established the Dual Enrollment  
64 Scholarship Program to support postsecondary institutions in  
65 providing dual enrollment.

66       (2) The Department of Education shall administer the Dual  
67 Enrollment Scholarship Program in accordance with rules adopted  
68 by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (9).

69       (3) (a) Beginning in the 2021 fall term, the program shall  
70 reimburse eligible postsecondary institutions for tuition and  
71 related instructional materials costs for dual enrollment  
72 courses taken by private school or home education program  
73 secondary students during the fall or spring terms.

74       (b) Beginning in the 2022 summer term, the program shall  
75 reimburse institutions for tuition and related instructional  
76 materials costs for dual enrollment courses taken by public  
77 school, private school, or home education program secondary  
78 students during the summer term.

79       (4) A student participating in a dual enrollment program  
80 must meet the minimum eligibility requirements specified in s.  
81 1007.271 in order for the institution to receive a  
82 reimbursement.

83       (5) Annually, by March 15, each participating institution  
84 must report to the department any eligible secondary students  
85 from private schools or home education programs who were  
86 enrolled during the previous fall or spring terms. Annually, by  
87 July 15, each participating institution must report to the

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88 department any eligible public school, private school, or home  
89 education program students who were enrolled during the summer  
90 term. For each dual enrollment course in which the student is  
91 enrolled, the report must include a unique student identifier,  
92 the postsecondary institution name, the postsecondary course  
93 number, the postsecondary course name, and the number of  
94 postsecondary course credits earned by the student.

95 (6) (a) Florida College System institutions shall be  
96 reimbursed at the in-state resident tuition rate established in  
97 s. 1009.23(3) (a).

98 (b) State University System institutions and independent  
99 postsecondary institutions shall be reimbursed at the standard  
100 tuition rate established in s. 1009.24(4) (a).

101 (c) Institutions shall be reimbursed for instructional  
102 materials costs based on a rate specified in the General  
103 Appropriations Act.

104 (7) For dual enrollment courses taken during the fall and  
105 spring terms, the department must reimburse institutions by  
106 April 15 of the same year. For dual enrollment courses taken  
107 during the summer term, the department must reimburse  
108 institutions by August 15 of the same year, before the beginning  
109 of the next academic year.

110 (8) Reimbursement for dual enrollment courses is contingent  
111 upon an appropriation in the General Appropriations Act each  
112 year. If the statewide reimbursement amount is greater than the  
113 appropriation, the institutional reimbursement amounts specified  
114 in subsection (6) shall be prorated among the institutions that  
115 have reported eligible students to the department by the  
116 deadlines specified in subsection (5).

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117       (9) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
118 implement this section.

119       Section 3. Section 1012.978, Florida Statutes, is created  
120 to read:

121       1012.978 Bonuses for state university system employees.—  
122 Notwithstanding s. 215.425(3)(d), a university board of trustees  
123 may implement a bonus scheme based on awards for work  
124 performance or employee recruitment and retention. The board of  
125 trustees must submit to the Board of Governors the bonus scheme,  
126 including the evaluation criteria by which a bonus will be  
127 awarded. The Board of Governors must approve any bonus scheme  
128 created under this section before its implementation.

129       Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.