

By Senator Trumbull

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public postsecondary tuition and fee waivers for sheriff's office employees; amending s. 1009.265, F.S.; requiring state universities and Florida College System institutions to waive tuition and fees for sheriff's office employees; providing requirements for the waiver of tuition and fees for sheriff's office employees; providing requirements for a person to be considered a sheriff's office employee; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), and (5) of section 1009.265, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.265 State employee and sheriff's office employee fee waivers.—

(1) As a benefit to the employer and employees of the state and each sheriff's office in the state, subject to approval by an employee's agency head or sheriff, or the equivalent, each state university and Florida College System institution shall waive tuition and fees for state employees and sheriff's office employees to enroll for up to 6 credit hours of courses per term on a space-available basis.

(2) The Chief Financial Officer, in cooperation with the Florida College System institutions and state universities, shall identify and implement ways to ease the administrative burden to Florida College System institutions and state universities, including, but not limited to, providing easier

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access to verify state or sheriff's office employment.

(5) For purposes of this section:7

(a) Employees of the state include employees of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government, except for persons employed by a state university.

(b) Employees of a sheriff's office include any full-time sworn law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or civilian employee of the sheriff's office.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.