

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy; and Senator Lee

594-03414-15

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures  
3           Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.;  
4           providing that the initial award period and the  
5           renewal period for students who are unable to accept  
6           an initial award immediately after completion of high  
7           school due to a full-time religious or service  
8           obligation begin upon the completion of the religious  
9           or service obligation; specifying requirements for an  
10          entity that is sponsoring the obligation; requiring  
11          verification from the entity for which the student  
12          completed such obligation; revising eligibility  
13          requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
14          Scholarship Program; deleting obsolete provisions;  
15          amending ss. 1009.534, 1009.535, and 1009.536, F.S.;  
16          requiring a student, as a prerequisite for the Florida  
17          Academic Scholars award, the Florida Medallion  
18          Scholars award, or the Florida Gold Seal Vocational  
19          Scholars award, to identify a social or civic issue or  
20          a professional area of interest and develop a plan for  
21          his or her personal involvement in addressing the  
22          issue or learning about the area; prohibiting the  
23          student from receiving remuneration or academic credit  
24          for the volunteer service work performed except in  
25          certain circumstances; requiring the hours of  
26          volunteer service work to be documented in writing and  
27          signed by the student, the student's parent or  
28          guardian, and a representative of the organization for  
29          which the student performed the volunteer service

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30 work; providing an effective date.

31  
32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33  
34 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and paragraphs  
35 (a) and (b) of subsection (6) of section 1009.531, Florida  
36 Statutes, are amended to read:

37 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
38 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.-

39 (2)

40 (c) A student graduating from high school in the 2012-2013  
41 academic year and thereafter is eligible to accept an initial  
42 award for 2 years following high school graduation and to accept  
43 a renewal award for 5 years following high school graduation. A  
44 student who applies for an award by high school graduation and  
45 who meets all other eligibility requirements, but who does not  
46 accept his or her award, may reapply during subsequent  
47 application periods up to 2 years after high school graduation.  
48 For a student who enlists in the United States Armed Forces  
49 immediately after completion of high school, the 2-year  
50 eligibility period for his or her initial award and the 5-year  
51 renewal period shall begin upon the date of separation from  
52 active duty. For a student who is receiving a Florida Bright  
53 Futures Scholarship award and discontinues his or her education  
54 to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, the remainder of  
55 his or her 5-year renewal period shall commence upon the date of  
56 separation from active duty. For a student who is unable to  
57 accept an initial award immediately after completion of high  
58 school due to a full-time religious or service obligation

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59 lasting at least 18 months, the 2-year eligibility period for  
60 his or her initial award and the 5-year renewal period begin  
61 upon the completion of his or her religious or service  
62 obligation. The organization sponsoring the full-time religious  
63 or service obligation must meet the requirements for nonprofit  
64 status under s. 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or be a  
65 federal government service organization that includes, but is  
66 not limited to, the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps programs. The  
67 obligation must be documented in writing and verified by the  
68 entity for which the student completed the obligation on a  
69 standardized form prescribed by the department. If a course of  
70 study is not completed after 5 academic years, an exception of 1  
71 year to the renewal timeframe may be granted due to a verifiable  
72 illness or other documented emergency pursuant to s.  
73 1009.40 (1) (b) 4.

74 (6) (a) The State Board of Education shall publicize the  
75 examination score required for a student to be eligible for a  
76 Florida Academic Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.534(1) (a)  
77 or (b) ~~as follows:~~

78 ~~1. For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011 and~~  
79 ~~2011-2012 academic years, the student must earn an SAT score of~~  
80 ~~1270 or a concordant ACT score of 28.~~

81 ~~2. For high school students graduating in the 2012-2013~~  
82 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 1280 which~~  
83 ~~corresponds to the 88th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~  
84 ~~score of 28.~~

85 ~~3. For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~  
86 ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~  
87 ~~of 1290 which corresponds to the 89th SAT percentile rank or a~~

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88 concordant ACT score of 29.

89 (b) The State Board of Education shall publicize the  
90 examination score required for a student to be eligible for a  
91 Florida Medallion Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.535(1) (a)  
92 or (b), ~~as follows:~~

93 ~~1. For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011~~  
94 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 970 or a~~  
95 ~~concordant ACT score of 20 or the student in a home education~~  
96 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college preparatory~~  
97 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT~~  
98 ~~score of 23.~~

99 ~~2. For high school students graduating in the 2011-2012~~  
100 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 980 which~~  
101 ~~corresponds to the 44th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~  
102 ~~score of 21 or the student in a home education program whose~~  
103 ~~parent cannot document a college preparatory curriculum must~~  
104 ~~earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

105 ~~3. For high school students graduating in the 2012-2013~~  
106 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 1020 which~~  
107 ~~corresponds to the 51st SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~  
108 ~~score of 22 or the student in a home education program whose~~  
109 ~~parent cannot document a college preparatory curriculum must~~  
110 ~~earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

111 ~~4. For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~  
112 ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~  
113 ~~of 1170 which corresponds to the 75th SAT percentile rank or a~~  
114 ~~concordant ACT score of 26 or the student in a home education~~  
115 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college preparatory~~  
116 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1220 or a concordant ACT~~

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117 ~~score of 27.~~

118 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1009.534, Florida  
119 Statutes, is amended to read:

120 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

121 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars  
122 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility  
123 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
124 and ~~the student~~:

125 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as  
126 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high  
127 school courses that are designated by the State Board of  
128 Education as college-preparatory academic courses, and has  
129 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.  
130 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of  
131 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
132 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
133 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
134 Assessment Program;

135 (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.  
136 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, ~~or~~ or has completed the  
137 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the  
138 International Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the  
139 Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but  
140 failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of  
141 Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required  
142 under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and  
143 quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
144 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic  
145 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an

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146 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

147 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma  
148 from the International Baccalaureate Office or an Advanced  
149 International Certificate of Education Diploma from the  
150 University of Cambridge International Examinations Office;

151 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
152 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
153 scholar or finalist; or

154 (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic  
155 Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

156  
157 The ~~A~~ student must complete a program of volunteer ~~community~~  
158 service work, as approved by the district school board, the  
159 administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of  
160 Education for home education program students, which must ~~shall~~  
161 include a minimum of 75 hours of service work for high school  
162 students graduating in the 2010-2011 academic year and 100 hours  
163 of service work for high school students graduating in the 2011-  
164 2012 academic year and thereafter. The student, ~~and~~ must  
165 identify a social or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~  
166 that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her  
167 personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about  
168 the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other presentations,  
169 evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for  
170 credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant  
171 to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or  
172 academic credit for the volunteer service work performed. Such  
173 work may include, but is not limited to, a business or  
174 government internship, work for a nonprofit community service

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175 organization, or activity on behalf of a candidate for public  
176 office. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in  
177 writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the  
178 student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the  
179 organization for which the student performed the volunteer  
180 service work.

181 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1009.535, Florida  
182 Statutes, is amended to read:

183 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

184 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars  
185 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility  
186 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
187 and ~~the student~~:

188 (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as  
189 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high  
190 school courses that are designated by the State Board of  
191 Education as college-preparatory academic courses~~r~~ and has  
192 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.  
193 1009.531(6) (b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of  
194 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
195 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
196 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
197 Assessment Program;

198 (b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate  
199 curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate  
200 Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate  
201 of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced  
202 International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained  
203 at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (b)

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204 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic  
205 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered  
206 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,  
207 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

208 (c) Has attended a home education program according to s.  
209 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the  
210 score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (b) on the  
211 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic  
212 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered  
213 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,  
214 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program, if the  
215 student's parent cannot document a college-preparatory  
216 curriculum as described in paragraph (a);

217 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement program  
218 of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or  
219 finalist but has not completed the a program of volunteer  
220 ~~community~~ service work required under ~~as provided in~~ s.  
221 1009.534; or

222 (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic  
223 Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed the a  
224 program of volunteer ~~community~~ service work required under ~~as~~  
225 ~~provided in~~ s. 1009.534.

226  
227 A high school student graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year  
228 and thereafter must complete at least 75 hours ~~a program~~ of  
229 volunteer ~~community~~ service work approved by the district school  
230 board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the  
231 Department of Education for home education program students. The  
232 student, ~~which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service~~



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233 ~~work, and~~ must identify a social or civic issue or a  
234 professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him or her, develop a  
235 plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue  
236 or learning about the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other  
237 presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience.  
238 Except for credit earned through service-learning courses  
239 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive  
240 remuneration or academic credit for volunteer service work  
241 performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a  
242 business or government internship, work for a nonprofit  
243 community service organization, or activity on behalf of a  
244 candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must  
245 be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the  
246 student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative  
247 of the organization for which the student performed the  
248 volunteer service work.

249 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1009.536, Florida  
250 Statutes, is amended to read:

251 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.—The  
252 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is created within  
253 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and  
254 reward academic achievement and career preparation by high  
255 school students who wish to continue their education.

256 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal  
257 Vocational Scholars award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the  
258 general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
259 Scholarship Program and ~~the student~~:

260 (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential  
261 program of studies that requires at least three secondary school

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262 career credits. On-the-job training may not be substituted for  
263 any of the three required career credits.

264 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by  
265 earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level  
266 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department  
267 of Education.

268 (c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average  
269 of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all subjects  
270 required for a standard high school diploma, excluding elective  
271 courses.

272 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5  
273 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses that comprise  
274 ~~comprising~~ the career program.

275 (e) Beginning with high school students graduating in the  
276 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter, completes at least 30  
277 hours a program of volunteer ~~community~~ service work approved by  
278 the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic  
279 school, or the Department of Education for home education  
280 program students. The student must identify, which shall include  
281 a minimum of 30 hours of service work, and identifies a social  
282 or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him  
283 or her, develop ~~develops~~ a plan for his or her personal  
284 involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area  
285 ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate  
286 ~~evaluates~~ and reflect ~~reflects~~ upon his or her experience.  
287 Except for credit earned through service-learning courses  
288 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive  
289 remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work  
290 performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a

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291 business or government internship, work for a nonprofit  
292 community service organization, or activity on behalf of a  
293 candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must  
294 be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the  
295 student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative  
296 of the organization for which the student performed the  
297 volunteer service work.

298 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.