

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures
3 Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.531; delaying an
4 initial award and renewal period for students unable
5 to accept an award immediately after completion of
6 high school due to a certain religious or service
7 obligations; revising eligibility requirements for the
8 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for home
9 education students; amending ss. 1009.534, 1009.535,
10 and 1009.536, F.S.; requiring a student, as a
11 prerequisite for the Florida Academic Scholars award,
12 the Florida Medallion Scholars award, or the Florida
13 Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, to identify a
14 social or civic issue or a professional area of
15 interest and develop a plan for his or her personal
16 involvement in addressing the issue or learning about
17 the area; prohibiting the student from receiving
18 remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer
19 service except in certain circumstances; requiring the
20 hours of service to be documented in writing and the
21 documentation to be signed by the student, the
22 student's parent, and a representative of the business
23 or organization for which the student volunteered;
24 providing an effective date.

25
26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

27
28 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and subsection
29 (6) of section 1009.531, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
30 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
31 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.-
32 (2)
33 (c) A student graduating from high school in the 2012-2013
34 academic year and thereafter is eligible to accept an initial
35 award for 2 years following high school graduation and to accept
36 a renewal award for 5 years following high school graduation. A
37 student who applies for an award by high school graduation and
38 who meets all other eligibility requirements, but who does not
39 accept his or her award, may reapply during subsequent
40 application periods up to 2 years after high school graduation.
41 For a student who enlists in the United States Armed Forces
42 immediately after completion of high school, the 2-year
43 eligibility period for his or her initial award and the 5-year
44 renewal period shall begin upon the date of separation from
45 active duty. For a student who is receiving a Florida Bright
46 Futures Scholarship award and discontinues his or her education
47 to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, the remainder of
48 his or her 5-year renewal period shall commence upon the date of
49 separation from active duty. For a student who is unable to
50 accept an initial award immediately after completion of high
51 school due to a full-time religious or service obligation
52 lasting at least 18 months, the 2-year eligibility period for

53 his or her initial award and the 5-year renewal period shall
54 begin upon the completion of his or her religious or service
55 obligation. The full-time religious or service obligation must
56 be documented in writing and verified by the entity for which
57 the student completed such obligation. If a course of study is
58 not completed after 5 academic years, an exception of 1 year to
59 the renewal timeframe may be granted due to a verifiable illness
60 or other documented emergency pursuant to s. 1009.40(1)(b)4.

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

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

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

72 ~~3. For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~
73 ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~
74 ~~of 1290 which corresponds to the 89th SAT percentile rank or a~~
75 ~~concordant ACT score of 29.~~

76 (b) The State Board of Education shall publicize the
77 examination score required for a student to be eligible for a
78 Florida Medallion Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.535(1)(a)

79 or (b), ~~as follows:~~

80 1. ~~For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011~~
81 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 970 or a~~
82 ~~concordant ACT score of 20 or the student in a home education~~
83 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college-preparatory~~
84 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT~~
85 ~~score of 23.~~

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

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

98 4. ~~For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~
99 ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~
100 ~~of 1170 which corresponds to the 75th SAT percentile rank or a~~
101 ~~concordant ACT score of 26 or the student in a home education~~
102 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college-preparatory~~
103 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1220 or a concordant ACT~~
104 ~~score of 27.~~

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

107 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

108 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars
 109 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility
 110 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
 111 and ~~the student~~:

112 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as
 113 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high
 114 school courses that are designated by the State Board of
 115 Education as college-preparatory academic courses, and has
 116 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.
 117 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of
 118 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or
 119 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
 120 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT
 121 Assessment Program;

122 (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.
 123 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, or ~~or~~ has completed the
 124 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the
 125 International Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the
 126 Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but
 127 failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of
 128 Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required
 129 under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and
 130 quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the

131 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic
132 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an
133 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

134 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate
135 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office or an
136 Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma from the
137 University of Cambridge International Examinations Office;

138 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
139 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
140 scholar or finalist; or

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

143

144 The A student must complete a program of volunteer ~~community~~
145 service work, as approved by the district school board, the
146 administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of
147 Education for home education program students, which must ~~shall~~
148 include a minimum of 75 hours of service work for high school
149 students graduating in the 2010-2011 academic year and 100 hours
150 of service work for high school students graduating in the 2011-
151 2012 academic year and thereafter. The student, ~~and~~ must
152 identify a social or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~
153 that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her
154 personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about
155 the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other presentations,
156 evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for

157 credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant
158 to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or
159 academic credit for the volunteer service. Such service may
160 include direct involvement in a specific volunteer or community
161 service project with a business or nonprofit community service
162 organization. The hours of service must be approved by the
163 school and documented in writing. The documentation must be
164 signed by the student, the student's parent, and a
165 representative of the business or organization for which the
166 student volunteered.

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

169 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

170 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars
171 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility
172 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
173 and ~~the student~~:

174 (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as
175 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high
176 school courses that are designated by the State Board of
177 Education as college-preparatory academic courses, and has
178 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.
179 1009.531(6) (b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of
180 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or
181 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
182 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT

183 Assessment Program;

184 (b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate
185 curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate
186 Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate
187 of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced
188 International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained
189 at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (b)
190 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic
191 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered
192 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,
193 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

194 (c) Has attended a home education program according to s.
195 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the
196 score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (b) on the
197 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic
198 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered
199 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,
200 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program, if the
201 student's parent cannot document a college-preparatory
202 curriculum as described in paragraph (a);

203 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
204 program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
205 scholar or finalist but has not completed the ~~a~~ program of
206 volunteer community service work required under ~~as provided in~~
207 s. 1009.534; or

208 (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic

209 Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed the a
 210 program of volunteer ~~community~~ service work required under ~~as~~
 211 ~~provided in~~ s. 1009.534.

212
 213 A high school student graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year
 214 and thereafter must complete at least 75 hours ~~a program~~ of
 215 volunteer ~~community~~ service work approved by the district school
 216 board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the
 217 Department of Education for home education program students. The
 218 ~~student, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service~~
 219 ~~work, and~~ must identify a social or civic issue or a
 220 professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him or her, develop a
 221 plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue
 222 or learning about the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other
 223 presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience.
 224 Except for credit earned through service-learning courses
 225 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive
 226 remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service. Such
 227 service may include direct involvement in a specific volunteer
 228 or community service project with a business or nonprofit
 229 community service organization. The hours of service must be
 230 approved by the school and documented in writing. The
 231 documentation must be signed by the student, the student's
 232 parent, and a representative of the business or organization for
 233 which the student volunteered.

234 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1009.536, Florida

235 Statutes, is amended to read:

236 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.—The
237 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is created within
238 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and
239 reward academic achievement and career preparation by high
240 school students who wish to continue their education.

241 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
242 Vocational Scholars award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the
243 general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
244 Scholarship Program and ~~the student~~:

245 (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential
246 program of studies that requires at least three secondary school
247 career credits. On-the-job training may not be substituted for
248 any of the three required career credits.

249 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by
250 earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level
251 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department
252 of Education.

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

257 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5
258 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses that compose
259 ~~comprising~~ the career program.

260 (e) Beginning with high school students graduating in the

261 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter, completes at least 30
262 hours ~~a program~~ of volunteer ~~community~~ service work approved by
263 the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic
264 school, or the Department of Education for home education
265 program students. The student must identify, ~~which shall include~~
266 ~~a minimum of 30 hours of service work,~~ and identifies a social
267 or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him
268 or her, develop ~~develops~~ a plan for his or her personal
269 involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area
270 ~~problem,~~ and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate
271 ~~evaluates~~ and reflect ~~reflects~~ upon his or her experience.
272 Except for credit earned through service-learning courses
273 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive
274 remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service. Such
275 service may include direct involvement in a specific volunteer
276 or community service project with a business or nonprofit
277 community service organization. The hours of service must be
278 approved by the school and documented in writing. The
279 documentation must be signed by the student, the student's
280 parent, and a representative of the business or organization for
281 which the student volunteered.

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