

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to independent postsecondary
 3 educational grants; creating s. 1009.8911, F.S.;
 4 authorizing the Department of Education to award
 5 grants to students enrolled at certain colleges and
 6 universities; providing requirements for such colleges
 7 and universities; providing that such colleges and
 8 universities are not under the jurisdiction of and are
 9 not subject to licensure by the Commission for
 10 Independent Education; providing an effective date.

11
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
 14 Section 1. Section 1009.8911, Florida Statutes, is created
 15 to read:

16 1009.8911 Educational grants to students enrolled in
 17 independent for-profit colleges and universities.-

18 (1) Subject to legislative funding, the Department of
 19 Education shall issue a grant pursuant to s. 1009.89 to any
 20 full-time degree-seeking undergraduate student who is registered
 21 at an independent for-profit college or university that meets
 22 all of the following criteria:

23 (a) Has a level 6 accreditation from the Southern
 24 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

25 (b) Is located in and chartered by the state.

26 (c) Was licensed by the department on or before October 1,
 27 2021.

28 (d) Has a secular purpose. The receipt of state aid by
 29 students at the college or university may not have the primary
 30 effect of advancing or impeding religion, or result in an
 31 excessive entanglement between the state and any religion sect.

32 (e) Is not a state university or Florida College System
 33 institution.

34 (f) Has notified the department in writing of its decision
 35 to apply for the grant no later than September 1, 2023.

36 (g) Except for s. 1009.89(1) and (3), complies with all
 37 other requirements as provided in s. 1009.89.

38 (2) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, an
 39 eligible college or university applying for a grant under this
 40 section is outside the jurisdiction of, and is not subject to
 41 licensure by, the Commission for Independent Education.

42 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.