

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Conforming Bill
Relating to Fee Waivers

BILL

2026

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to fee waivers; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.;
3 requiring a state university to waive a student's out-of-
4 pocket expenses under certain conditions; deleting a
5 requirement for a certain fee waiver; providing an
6 effective date.

7
8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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10 Section 1. Subsection (18) of section 1009.26, Florida
11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12 1009.26 Fee waivers. —

13 (18) (a) For every course in a Program of Strategic
14 Emphasis, or in a state-approved teacher preparation program
15 identified by the Board of Governors, as identified in
16 subparagraph 3., in which a student is enrolled and has out-of-
17 pocket expenses for tuition and fees after all other federal,
18 state, and institutional gift aid is applied, a state university
19 shall waive 100 percent of the tuition and fees of the student's
20 out-of-pocket expenses for an equivalent course in such program
21 for a student who:

22 1. Is a resident for tuition purposes under s. 1009.21.

23 2. Has earned at least 60 semester credit hours towards a
24 baccalaureate degree within 2 academic years after initial
25 enrollment at a Florida public postsecondary institution.

26 3. Enrolls in one of 10 Programs of Strategic Emphasis as
27 adopted by the Board of Governors or a state-approved teacher
28 preparation program. The Board of Governors shall adopt eight

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29 Programs of Strategic Emphasis in science, technology,
30 engineering, or math; beginning with the 2022-2023 academic
31 year, two Programs of Strategic Emphasis in the critical
32 workforce gap analysis category; and beginning with the 2023-
33 2024 academic year, two state-approved teacher preparation
34 programs for which a student may be eligible to receive the
35 tuition and fee waiver authorized by this subsection. The
36 programs identified by the board must reflect the priorities of
37 the state and be offered at a majority of state universities at
38 the time the Board of Governors approves the list.

39 (b) A waiver granted under this subsection is applicable
40 only for upper-level courses and up to 110 percent of the number
41 of required credit hours of the baccalaureate degree program for
42 which the student is enrolled. A student granted a waiver under
43 this subsection shall continue receiving the waiver until the
44 student graduates, exceeds the number of allowable credit hours,
45 or withdraws from an eligible program, regardless of whether the
46 program is removed from the approved list of eligible programs
47 subsequent to the student's enrollment.

48 ~~(c) Upon enrollment in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or a~~
49 ~~state approved teacher preparation program, the tuition and fees~~
50 ~~waived under this subsection must be reported for state funding~~
51 ~~purposes under ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535 and must be disbursed~~
52 ~~to the student. The amount disbursed to the student must be~~
53 ~~equal to the award amount the student has received under s.~~
54 ~~1009.534(3) or s. 1009.535(2).~~

55 ~~(d)~~ Each state university shall report to the Board of
56 Governors the number and value of all waivers granted annually

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57 | under this subsection. A state university in compliance with
58 | this subsection may earn incentive funding, subject to
59 | appropriation, in addition to the funding provided under s.
60 | 1001.92.

61 | (d)~~(e)~~ The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations to
62 | administer this subsection.

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