

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Talent and Economic Advancement
3 Matching Grant Program; creating s. 1009.705, F.S.;
4 establishing the Talent and Economic Advancement Matching
5 Grant Program for certain purposes; providing for
6 administration of the program by the Department of
7 Education; providing definitions; authorizing businesses
8 to partner with certain institutions to provide grants to
9 students who enroll in certain educational programs;
10 authorizing the department to match certain private
11 contributions; requiring participating institutions to
12 certify to the department contributions received by
13 businesses for grant purposes; providing eligibility and
14 certification requirements; requiring the department to
15 allocate contributions to eligible institutions; providing
16 allocation requirements; providing requirements for
17 unallocated funds; providing duties of the Chief Financial
18 Officer; providing match criteria; providing eligibility
19 criteria for grant recipients; providing criteria for
20 award amounts; providing limitations; providing
21 certification requirements for participating institutions;
22 requiring the return of undisbursed amounts to the Office
23 of Student Financial Assistance; providing reporting
24 requirements for participating institutions; specifying
25 institution participation ineligibility criteria;
26 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules;
27 providing an effective date.
28

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

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 31 Section 1. Section 1009.705, Florida Statutes, is created
 32 to read:

33 1009.705 Talent and Economic Advancement Matching Grant
 34 Program.—

35 (1) (a) The Talent and Economic Advancement Matching Grant
 36 Program is established to provide businesses in this state with
 37 incentives to partner with eligible postsecondary educational
 38 institutions to expand access to higher education for residents
 39 of the state by providing grants to students who enroll in the
 40 certificate or degree programs described in subsection (2). The
 41 matching grant program shall be administered by the Department
 42 of Education.

43 (b) For purposes of this section, the term "department"
 44 means the Department of Education and the term "office" means
 45 the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

46 (2) An institution that is licensed by the Commission for
 47 Independent Education and accredited by a national or regional
 48 accrediting agency or association recognized by the United
 49 States Department of Education may partner with a business in
 50 this state to provide grants to students who enroll in
 51 postsecondary certificate or undergraduate degree programs
 52 identified annually by the State Board of Education that prepare
 53 students for careers in science, technology, engineering,
 54 mathematics, allied health, or other high-skill, high-wage
 55 occupations as identified on the final targeted occupations

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56 lists published by Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Agency for
57 Workforce Innovation.

58 (3) (a) To the extent matching funds are provided in the
59 General Appropriations Act for credit to the State Student
60 Financial Assistance Trust Fund as provided in s. 1010.73,
61 contributions by a business to an eligible postsecondary
62 institution to support the grants described in subsection (2)
63 may be eligible to be matched by the department on a dollar-for-
64 dollar basis.

65 (b) Participating institutions shall certify to the
66 department any contributions received from businesses to support
67 the grants described in subsection (2). Pledged contributions
68 are not eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of
69 total funds. The institution shall certify the name of each
70 business that donates funds to the matching grant program, the
71 amount collected from the business, and the certificate or
72 degree program or programs for which the donated funds are
73 provided.

74 (4) (a) The department shall allocate to each eligible
75 institution an amount equal to the amount of private
76 contributions certified by that institution, not to exceed 25
77 percent of the total funds appropriated for the matching grant
78 program. Such funds shall be released to qualifying educational
79 institutions on a first-come, first-served basis upon receipt by
80 the department of the appropriated funds and the information
81 required by paragraph (3) (b). Funds that remain unallocated on
82 December 1 of each year shall be available for allocation to

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83 eligible institutions with remaining certified private
84 contributions that have not been matched.

85 (b) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,
86 any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year that
87 has been allocated to the matching grant program shall remain in
88 the trust fund and shall be available for carrying out the
89 purposes of the matching grant program.

90 (c) The Chief Financial Officer shall authorize
91 expenditures from the trust fund upon receipt of vouchers
92 approved by the department.

93 (5) In order to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to
94 this section, an applicant must:

95 (a) Meet the general eligibility requirements set forth in
96 s. 1009.40.

97 (b) Enroll for a minimum of six credit hours per term, or
98 the equivalent, in an eligible institution in an undergraduate
99 degree or postsecondary certificate program that prepares
100 students for careers in science, technology, engineering,
101 mathematics, allied health, or other high-skill, high-wage
102 occupations as identified annually by the State Board of
103 Education pursuant to subsection (2).

104 (6) The award amount for a grant provided under this
105 section shall not exceed \$4,000 per year. If a participating
106 student is a veteran or the spouse or child of military
107 personnel on active duty, institutions participating in the
108 matching grant program must agree to provide additional support
109 to the student in the form of reduced tuition or fees or with
110 scholarships in addition to the amount the student is provided

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111 by the grant. The award amount for the grant may not exceed the
112 institution's estimated annual cost of attendance for the
113 student.

114 (7) Each participating institution shall certify to the
115 office by the date established by the office the eligible
116 students to whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic term,
117 the eligible certificate or degree program in which each student
118 is enrolled, and the amount of funds disbursed to the student.
119 The institution shall remit to the office any undisbursed
120 amounts by June 1 of each year.

121 (8) Each participating institution shall report annually
122 to the office by the date specified by the department and in the
123 manner prescribed by the department the businesses participating
124 in the matching grant program, the eligible certificate or
125 degree programs for which each business provided contributions,
126 the amount contributed, and any reductions in tuition and fees
127 granted to participating students by the institution. The office
128 shall provide a summary of the institutional reports to the
129 Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate,
130 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

131 (9) If an institution fails to comply with the
132 requirements of subsection (7), the institution is no longer
133 eligible to participate in the matching grant program.

134 (10) The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules
135 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

136 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.