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1
 2 An act relating to law enforcement; amending s. 30.49,
 3 F.S.; authorizing a sheriff to transfer funds between
 4 specified categories and code levels after his or her
 5 budget is approved; amending s. 145.071, F.S.;
 6 revising salary minimums for county sheriffs; amending
 7 s. 409.1664, F.S.; providing for adoption benefits for
 8 law enforcements officers; providing requirements to
 9 receive such benefits; providing procedures to obtain
 10 such benefits; creating s. 445.08, F.S.; creating the
 11 Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment
 12 Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity;
 13 providing definitions; providing for one-time bonus
 14 payments to newly-employed law enforcement officers;
 15 providing requirements for award of bonus payments;
 16 requiring the department to develop an annual plan for
 17 the administration of the program and distribution of
 18 payments; authorizing employing agencies to assist the
 19 department with the collection of specified data to
 20 collect such payments; providing plan requirements;
 21 providing eligibility requirements for the plan;
 22 requiring the department to consult quarterly with the
 23 commission to verify specified information; providing
 24 for reporting; authorizing the department to submit
 25 certain information for a specified purpose; providing

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26 | for use of a funding; requiring rulemaking; providing
 27 | for expiration of the program; amending s. 683.11,
 28 | F.S.; providing for the designation of "Law
 29 | Enforcement Appreciation Day"; amending s. 943.17,
 30 | F.S.; providing an exemption from certain law
 31 | enforcement officer training requirements for military
 32 | veterans; creating s. 943.1745, F.S.; providing
 33 | requirements for skills training for law enforcement
 34 | officers relating to officer health and safety;
 35 | amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; providing eligibility for
 36 | the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program for
 37 | children of law enforcement officers; creating s.
 38 | 1003.4933, F.S.; providing for each district school
 39 | board to establish a public safety telecommunication
 40 | training program; authorizing the district to partner
 41 | with programs operated by certain entities; requiring
 42 | school districts to allow certain students to enroll
 43 | in such a program under specified circumstances;
 44 | providing exceptions; creating s. 1003.49966, F.S.;
 45 | providing for each district school board to offer a
 46 | law enforcement explorer program; authorizing the
 47 | school board to partner with law enforcement agencies
 48 | to offer such programs; providing for a student to
 49 | receive course credit if such a program is offered as
 50 | an elective; creating s. 1004.098, F.S.; providing

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51 definitions; requiring the Board of Governors and the
 52 State Board of Education to create a process that
 53 enables eligible law enforcement officers or former
 54 law enforcement officers to earn uniform postsecondary
 55 credit across all Florida public postsecondary
 56 educational institutions for college-level training
 57 and education acquired while serving as a law
 58 enforcement officer; requiring the Articulation
 59 Coordinating Committee to convene a workgroup by a
 60 specified date to facilitate such process; providing
 61 membership of the workgroup; providing a timetable for
 62 the process; creating s. 1009.896, F.S.; providing
 63 definitions; creating the Florida Law Enforcement
 64 Academy Scholarship Program; providing requirements
 65 for receipt of such a scholarship; providing
 66 procedures for the program; proving for the amount of
 67 such awards; requiring rulemaking; creating s.
 68 1009.8961, F.S.; providing definitions; providing for
 69 reimbursement for out-of-state and special operations
 70 forces law enforcement equivalency training; providing
 71 requirements for receipt of such reimbursement;
 72 providing procedures for such reimbursement; providing
 73 for amount of such awards; requiring rulemaking;
 74 providing an effective date.

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

77

78 Section 1. Subsection (12) is added to section 30.49,
79 Florida Statutes, to read:

80 30.49 Budgets.—

81 (12) Notwithstanding any other law, and in order to
82 effectuate, fulfil, and preserve the independence of sheriffs as
83 specified in s. 30.53, a sheriff may transfer funds between the
84 fund and functional categories and object and subobject code
85 levels after his or her budget has been approved by the board of
86 county commissioners or budget commission.

87 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 145.071, Florida
88 Statutes, is amended to read:

89 145.071 Sheriff.—

90 (1) Each sheriff shall receive as salary the amount
91 indicated, based on the population of his or her county. In
92 addition, a compensation shall be made for population increments
93 over the minimum for each group, which shall be determined by
94 multiplying the population in excess of the minimum for the
95 group times the group rate.

96

Pop.			Base	Group Rate
Group	County Pop.	Range	Salary	
	Minimum	Maximum		

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98	I			<u>28,350</u>	
		-0-	49,999	23,350	\$0.07875
99	II			<u>31,500</u>	
		50,000	99,999	26,500	0.06300
100	III			<u>34,650</u>	
		100,000	199,999	29,650	0.02625
101	IV			<u>37,275</u>	
		200,000	399,999	32,275	0.01575
102	V			<u>40,425</u>	
		400,000	999,999	35,425	0.00525
103	VI			<u>43,575</u>	
		1,000,000		38,575	0.00400

104
 105 Section 3. Paragraphs (b) through (e) of subsection (1) of
 106 section 409.1664, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 107 paragraphs (c) through (f), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is
 108 added to that subsection, and subsections (2), (3), (4), and (6)
 109 of that section are amended, to read:

110 409.1664 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive

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111 employees of state agencies, veterans, ~~and~~ servicemembers, and
 112 law enforcement officers.—

113 (1) As used in this section, the term:

114 (b) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 115 provided in s. 943.10(1).

116 (2) A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or
 117 servicemember who adopts a child within the child welfare system
 118 who has special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is
 119 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of
 120 \$10,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A law
 121 enforcement officer who adopts a child within the child welfare
 122 system who has special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is
 123 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of
 124 \$25,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A
 125 qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or servicemember who
 126 adopts a child within the child welfare system who does not have
 127 special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to
 128 receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per
 129 such child, subject to applicable taxes. A law enforcement
 130 officer who adopts a child within the child welfare system who
 131 does not have special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is
 132 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of
 133 \$10,000 per each such child, subject to applicable taxes. A
 134 qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the Florida
 135 Virtual School may retroactively apply for the monetary benefit

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136 provided in this subsection if such employee was employed by a
 137 charter school or the Florida Virtual School when he or she
 138 adopted a child within the child welfare system pursuant to
 139 chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015. A veteran or servicemember
 140 may apply for the monetary benefit provided in this subsection
 141 if he or she is domiciled in this state and adopts a child
 142 within the child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or
 143 after July 1, 2020. A law enforcement officer may apply for the
 144 monetary benefit provided in this subsection if he or she is
 145 domiciled in this state and adopts a child within the child
 146 welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2022.

147 (a) Benefits paid to a qualifying adoptive employee who is
 148 a part-time employee must be prorated based on the qualifying
 149 adoptive employee's full-time equivalency at the time of
 150 applying for the benefits.

151 (b) Monetary benefits awarded under this subsection are
 152 limited to one award per adopted child within the child welfare
 153 system.

154 (c) The payment of a lump-sum monetary benefit for
 155 adopting a child within the child welfare system under this
 156 section is subject to a specific appropriation to the department
 157 for such purpose.

158 (3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his or
 159 her agency head, or to his or her school director in the case of
 160 a qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the

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161 Florida Virtual School, to obtain the monetary benefit provided
 162 in subsection (2). A veteran or servicemember must apply to the
 163 department to obtain the benefit. A law enforcement officer must
 164 apply to the Department of Law Enforcement to obtain the
 165 benefit. Applications must be on forms approved by the
 166 department and must include a certified copy of the final order
 167 of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.
 168 Monetary benefits shall be approved on a first-come, first-
 169 served basis based upon the date that each fully completed
 170 application is received by the department.

171 (4) This section does not preclude a qualifying adoptive
 172 employee, veteran, ~~or~~ servicemember, or law enforcement officer
 173 from receiving adoption assistance for which he or she may
 174 qualify under s. 409.166 or any other statute that provides
 175 financial incentives for the adoption of children.

176 (6) The department may adopt rules to administer this
 177 section. The rules may provide for an application process such
 178 as, but not limited to, an open enrollment period during which
 179 qualifying adoptive employees, veterans, ~~or~~ servicemembers, or
 180 law enforcement officers may apply for monetary benefits under
 181 this section.

182 Section 4. Section 445.08, Florida Statutes, is created to
 183 read:

184 445.08 Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment
 185 Program.—

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186 (1) For the purposes of this section, the term:
 187 (a) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and
 188 Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.
 189 (b) "Employing agency" has the same meaning as provided in
 190 s. 943.10(4).
 191 (c) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 192 provided in s. 943.10(1).
 193 (d) "Newly employed officer" means a person who gains or
 194 is appointed to full-time employment as a certified law
 195 enforcement officer with a Florida criminal justice employing
 196 agency on or after July 1, 2022, and who has never before been
 197 employed as a law enforcement officer in this state.
 198 (e) "Program" means the Florida Law Enforcement
 199 Recruitment Bonus Payment Program.
 200 (2) There is created within the department the Florida Law
 201 Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program, to aid in the
 202 recruitment of law enforcement officers within the state. The
 203 purpose of the program is to administer one-time bonus payments
 204 of up to \$5,000 to each newly employed officer within the state.
 205 Bonus payments provided to eligible newly employed officers are
 206 contingent upon legislative appropriations and shall be prorated
 207 subject to the amount appropriated for the program.
 208 (3) Each bonus payment shall be adjusted to include 7.65
 209 percent for the officer's share of Federal Insurance
 210 Contribution Act tax on the payment.

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211 (4) The department shall develop an annual plan for the
 212 administration of the program and distribution of bonus
 213 payments. Applicable employing agencies shall assist the
 214 department with the collection of any data necessary to
 215 determine bonus payment amounts and to distribute the bonus
 216 payments, and shall otherwise provide the department with any
 217 information or assistance needed to fulfill the requirements of
 218 this section. At a minimum, the plan must include:

219 (a) The method for determining the estimated number of
 220 newly employed officers to gain or be appointed to full-time
 221 employment during the applicable fiscal year.

222 (b) The minimum eligibility requirements a newly employed
 223 officer must meet to receive and retain a bonus payment, which
 224 must include:

225 1. Obtaining certification for employment or appointment
 226 as a law enforcement officer pursuant to s. 943.1395.

227 2. Gaining full-time employment with a Florida criminal
 228 justice agency.

229 3. Maintaining continuous full-time employment with a
 230 Florida criminal justice agency for at least 2 years from the
 231 date on which the officer obtained certification. The required
 232 2-year employment period may be satisfied by maintaining
 233 employment at one or more employing agencies, but such period
 234 must not contain any break in service longer than 15 calendar
 235 days.

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236 (c) The method that will be used to determine the bonus
 237 payment amount to be distributed to each newly employed officer.

238 (d) The method that will be used to distribute bonus
 239 payments to applicable employing agencies for distribution to
 240 eligible officers. Such method should prioritize distributing
 241 bonus payments to eligible officers in the most efficient and
 242 quickest manner possible.

243 (e) The estimated cost to the department associated with
 244 developing and administering the program and distributing bonus
 245 payment funds.

246 (f) The method by which an officer must reimburse the
 247 state if he or she received a bonus payment under the program,
 248 but failed to maintain continuous employment for the required 2-
 249 year period. Reimbursement shall not be required if an officer
 250 is discharged by his or her employing agency for a reason other
 251 than misconduct as designated on the affidavit of separation
 252 completed by the employing agency and maintained by the
 253 commission.

254
 255 The department may establish other criteria deemed necessary to
 256 determine bonus payment eligibility and distribution.

257 (5) The department shall consult quarterly with the
 258 commission to verify the certification of newly employed
 259 officers and affidavits of separation submitted to the
 260 commission which detail officer misconduct.

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261 (6) The department shall submit the plan to the Executive
 262 Office of the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget, the chair
 263 of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the chair of the
 264 House Appropriations Committee by October 1 of each year. The
 265 department is authorized to submit budget amendments pursuant to
 266 chapter 216 as necessary to release appropriated funds for
 267 distribution to applicable employing agencies under this
 268 program.

269 (7) The funding allocation for the bonus payments must be
 270 used solely to comply with the requirements of this section, but
 271 applicable collective bargaining units are not otherwise
 272 precluded from wage negotiation.

273 (8) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
 274 section.

275 (9) This section expires July 1, 2025.

276 Section 5. Section 683.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 277 read:

278 683.11 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and Law
 279 Enforcement Appreciation Month.—

280 (1) May 1 of each year is hereby designated as "Law
 281 Enforcement Appreciation Day."

282 (2)~~(1)~~ The month of May of each year is hereby designated
 283 as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Month."

284 (3)~~(2)~~ The Governor and the mayor of each municipality may
 285 issue annually a proclamation designating May 1 as "Law

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286 Enforcement Appreciation Day" and the month of May as "Law
 287 Enforcement Appreciation Month" and urging all civic, fraternal,
 288 and religious organizations and public and private educational
 289 institutions to recognize and observe this occasion through
 290 appropriate programs, meetings, services, or celebrations in
 291 which state, county, and local law enforcement officers are
 292 invited to participate.

293 Section 6. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section
 294 943.17, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

295 943.17 Basic recruit, advanced, and career development
 296 training programs; participation; cost; evaluation.—The
 297 commission shall, by rule, design, implement, maintain,
 298 evaluate, and revise entry requirements and job-related
 299 curricula and performance standards for basic recruit, advanced,
 300 and career development training programs and courses. The rules
 301 shall include, but are not limited to, a methodology to assess
 302 relevance of the subject matter to the job, student performance,
 303 and instructor competency.

304 (1) The commission shall:

305 (g) Assure that entrance into the basic recruit training
 306 program for law enforcement and correctional officers be limited
 307 to those who have passed a basic skills examination and
 308 assessment instrument, based on a job task analysis in each
 309 discipline and adopted by the commission. However, a person is
 310 not required to take the basic skills examination and assessment

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311 instrument before entering a law enforcement officer basic
312 recruit training program if he or she is a veteran as defined in
313 s. 1.01(14) or holds an associate degree or higher from an
314 accredited college or university.

315 Section 7. Section 943.1745, Florida Statutes, is created
316 to read:

317 943.1745 Training relating to officer health and wellness
318 principles.-

319 (1) By July 1, 2023, the commission shall incorporate into
320 the course curriculum required for initial certification of a
321 law enforcement officer instruction on health and wellness
322 principles specific to the law enforcement profession. The
323 commission shall consult with the Florida State University
324 Institute for Justice Research and Development and the
325 Resiliency Behind the Badge training program to develop the
326 basic skills training component relating to officer health and
327 wellness principles. The training must include, but need not be
328 limited to, understanding the role secondary trauma and work
329 related incidents have on the personal life of an officer;
330 methods for identifying and addressing personal and work related
331 stressors; strategies to better understand when to seek
332 professional help and what kind of professional help to seek;
333 and strategies to normalize conversations about stress, trauma,
334 and mental health within the law enforcement community.

335 (2) By July 1, 2023, the commission shall by rule require

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336 that each law enforcement officer receive, as part of the 40
 337 hours of required instruction for continued employment or
 338 appointment as an officer, instruction on health and wellness
 339 principles specific to the law enforcement profession. The
 340 commission shall consult with the Florida State University
 341 Institute for Justice Research and Development and the
 342 Resiliency Behind the Badge training program to develop the
 343 training component relating to officer health and wellness
 344 principles. The training must include, but need not be limited
 345 to, understanding the role secondary trauma and work related
 346 incidents have on the personal life of an officer; methods for
 347 identifying and addressing personal and work related stressors;
 348 strategies to better understand when to seek professional help
 349 and what kind of professional help to seek; and strategies to
 350 normalize conversations about stress, trauma, and mental health
 351 within the law enforcement community.

352 Section 8. Paragraphs (k) and (l) of subsection (2) of
 353 section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 354 paragraphs (l) and (m), respectively, a new paragraph (k) is
 355 added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of subsection (3)
 356 and subsection (12) of that section are amended, to read:

357 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—
 358 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
 359 (k) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 360 provided in s. 943.10(1).

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361 (3) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—

362 (a) A parent of a student may request and receive from the
363 state a scholarship for the purposes specified in paragraph

364 (4)(a) if:

365 1. The student is on the direct certification list
366 pursuant to s. 1002.395(2)(c) or the student's household income
367 level does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level;

368 2. The student is currently placed, or during the previous
369 state fiscal year was placed, in foster care or in out-of-home
370 care as defined in s. 39.01;

371 3. The student's household income level does not exceed
372 375 percent of the federal poverty level or an adjusted maximum
373 percent of the federal poverty level that is increased by 25
374 percentage points in the fiscal year following any fiscal year
375 in which more than 5 percent of the available scholarships
376 authorized under paragraph (12)(a) have not been funded;

377 4. The student is a sibling of a student who is
378 participating in the scholarship program under this subsection
379 and such siblings reside in the same household; or

380 5. The student is a dependent child of a member of the
381 United States Armed Forces.

382 6. The student is a dependent child of a law enforcement
383 officer.

384
385 Priority must be given to a student whose household income level

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386 does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who
 387 is in foster care or out-of-home care.

388 (12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

389 (a)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible
 390 pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) are established for up to 18,000
 391 students annually beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.
 392 Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, the maximum number of
 393 students participating in the scholarship program under this
 394 section shall annually increase by 1.0 percent of the state's
 395 total public school student enrollment. An eligible student who
 396 meets any of the following requirements shall be excluded from
 397 the maximum number of students if the student:

398 a. Received a scholarship pursuant to s. 1002.395 during
 399 the previous school year but did not receive a renewal
 400 scholarship based solely on the eligible nonprofit scholarship-
 401 funding organization's lack of available funds after the
 402 organization fully exhausted its efforts to use funds available
 403 for awards under ss. 1002.395 and 1002.40(11) (i). Eligible
 404 nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations with students who
 405 meet the criterion in this subparagraph must annually notify the
 406 department in a format and by a date established by the
 407 department. The maximum number of scholarships awarded pursuant
 408 to this subparagraph shall not exceed 15,000 per school year;

409 b. Is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer or a
 410 member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an

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411 adopted child; or
 412 c. Is determined eligible pursuant to subparagraph
 413 (3)(a)1. or subparagraph (3)(a)2. and either spent the prior
 414 school year in attendance at a Florida public school or,
 415 beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, is eligible to enroll in
 416 kindergarten. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior
 417 school year in attendance" means that the student was enrolled
 418 and reported by a school district for funding during either the
 419 preceding October or February Florida Education Finance Program
 420 surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time
 421 spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if
 422 funded under the Florida Education Finance Program.

423 2. The scholarship amount provided to a student for any
 424 single school year shall be for tuition and fees for an eligible
 425 private school, not to exceed annual limits, which shall be
 426 determined in accordance with this subparagraph. The calculated
 427 amount for a participating student shall be based upon the grade
 428 level and school district in which the student was assigned as
 429 100 percent of the funds per unweighted full-time equivalent in
 430 the Florida Education Finance Program for a student in the basic
 431 program established pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)1., plus a per-
 432 full-time equivalent share of funds for all categorical
 433 programs, except for the Exceptional Student Education
 434 Guaranteed Allocation.

435 3. The amount of the scholarship shall be the calculated

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436 amount or the amount of the private school's tuition and fees,
437 whichever is less. The amount of any assessment fee required by
438 the participating private school and any costs to provide a
439 digital device, including Internet access, if necessary, to the
440 student may be paid from the total amount of the scholarship.

441 4. A scholarship of \$750 may be awarded to a student who
442 is determined eligible pursuant to subparagraph (3)(a)1. or
443 subparagraph (3)(a)2. and enrolled in a Florida public school
444 that is different from the school to which the student was
445 assigned or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32 if the
446 school district does not provide the student with transportation
447 to the school.

448 5. Upon notification from the organization on July 1,
449 September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has
450 been approved for the program, the department shall verify that
451 the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship
452 pursuant to subsection (6). The organization must provide the
453 department with the documentation necessary to verify the
454 student's participation. Upon verification, the department shall
455 transfer, from state funds only, the amount calculated pursuant
456 to subparagraph 2. to the organization for quarterly
457 disbursement to parents of participating students each school
458 year in which the scholarship is in force. For a student exiting
459 a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses
460 to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the

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461 Family Empowerment Scholarship calculated pursuant to
462 subparagraph 2. must be transferred from the school district in
463 which the student last attended a public school before
464 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student
465 enters the scholarship program, the organization must receive
466 all documentation required for the student's participation,
467 including the private school's and the student's fee schedules,
468 at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment
469 is made for the student.

470 6. The initial payment shall be made after the
471 organization's verification of admission acceptance, and
472 subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued
473 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be
474 by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent or by
475 funds transfer or any other means of payment that the department
476 deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. If the
477 payment is made by warrant, the warrant must be delivered by the
478 organization to the private school of the parent's choice, and
479 the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the
480 private school. An organization shall ensure that the parent to
481 whom the warrant is made has restrictively endorsed the warrant
482 to the private school for deposit into the account of the
483 private school or that the parent has approved a funds transfer
484 before any scholarship funds are deposited.

485 (b)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible

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486 | pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) are established for up to 20,000
 487 | students annually beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.
 488 | Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the maximum number of
 489 | students participating in the scholarship program under this
 490 | section shall annually increase by 1.0 percent of the state's
 491 | total exceptional student education full-time equivalent student
 492 | enrollment, not including gifted students. An eligible student
 493 | who meets any of the following requirements shall be excluded
 494 | from the maximum number of students if the student:

495 | a. Received specialized instructional services under the
 496 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
 497 | 1002.66 during the previous school year and the student has a
 498 | current IEP developed by the local school board in accordance
 499 | with rules of the State Board of Education;

500 | b. Is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer or a
 501 | member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an
 502 | adopted child;

503 | c. Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida
 504 | public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.
 505 | For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior school year
 506 | in attendance" means that the student was enrolled and reported
 507 | by:

508 | (I) A school district for funding during either the
 509 | preceding October or February Florida Education Finance Program
 510 | surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time

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511 spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if
 512 funded under the Florida Education Finance Program;

513 (II) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind during
 514 the preceding October or February student membership surveys in
 515 kindergarten through grade 12;

516 (III) A school district for funding during the preceding
 517 October or February Florida Education Finance Program surveys,
 518 was at least 4 years of age when enrolled and reported, and was
 519 eligible for services under s. 1003.21(1)(e); or

520 (IV) Received a John M. McKay Scholarship for Students
 521 with Disabilities in the 2021-2022 school year.

522 2. For a student who has a Level I to Level III matrix of
 523 services or a diagnosis by a physician or psychologist, the
 524 calculated scholarship amount for a student participating in the
 525 program must be based upon the grade level and school district
 526 in which the student would have been enrolled as the total funds
 527 per unweighted full-time equivalent in the Florida Education
 528 Finance Program for a student in the basic exceptional student
 529 education program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)1. and (e)1.c.,
 530 plus a per full-time equivalent share of funds for all
 531 categorical programs, as funded in the General Appropriations
 532 Act, except that for the exceptional student education
 533 guaranteed allocation as provided in s. 1011.62(1)(e)1.c. and
 534 2., the funds must be allocated based on the school district's
 535 average exceptional student education guaranteed allocation

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536 funds per exceptional student education full-time equivalent
 537 student.

538 3. For a student with a Level IV or Level V matrix of
 539 services, the calculated scholarship amount must be based upon
 540 the school district to which the student would have been
 541 assigned as the total funds per full-time equivalent for the
 542 Level IV or Level V exceptional student education program
 543 pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)2.a. or b., plus a per-full time
 544 equivalent share of funds for all categorical programs, as
 545 funded in the General Appropriations Act.

546 4. For a student who received a Gardiner Scholarship
 547 pursuant to s. 1002.385 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount
 548 shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to
 549 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-
 550 2021 school year.

551 5. For a student who received a John M. McKay Scholarship
 552 pursuant to s. 1002.39 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount
 553 shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to
 554 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-
 555 2021 school year.

556 6. Upon notification from an organization on July 1,
 557 September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has
 558 been approved for the program, the department shall verify that
 559 the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship
 560 pursuant to subsection (6). The organization must provide the

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561 department with the documentation necessary to verify the
 562 student's participation.

563 7. Upon verification, the department shall release, from
 564 state funds only, the student's scholarship funds to the
 565 organization, to be deposited into the student's account in four
 566 equal amounts no later than September 1, November 1, February 1,
 567 and April 1 of each school year in which the scholarship is in
 568 force.

569 8. Accrued interest in the student's account is in
 570 addition to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Program funds
 571 include both the awarded funds and accrued interest.

572 9. The organization may develop a system for payment of
 573 benefits by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit
 574 cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment
 575 which the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-
 576 effective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for
 577 debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services
 578 related to the development of such a system must be procured by
 579 competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state
 580 term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

581 10. Moneys received pursuant to this section do not
 582 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or the parent
 583 of the qualified student.

584 Section 9. Section 1003.4933, Florida Statutes, is created
 585 to read:

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586 1003.4933 911 public safety telecommunication training
 587 programs.—

588 (1) (a) Each district school board is encouraged to
 589 establish a public safety telecommunication training program as
 590 defined in s. 401.465 in at least one public high school in the
 591 district.

592 (b) The district school board may partner with an existing
 593 public safety telecommunication training program operated by a
 594 law enforcement agency or Florida College System Institution.

595 (2) (a) A school district shall allow a student attending a
 596 public high school in the district to enroll in the public
 597 safety telecommunication training program at another public high
 598 school in the district unless:

599 1. The student's school offers a public safety
 600 telecommunication training program;

601 2. The student does not meet the minimum enrollment
 602 qualifications for the public safety telecommunication training
 603 program; or

604 3. Scheduling of the student's courses of study does not
 605 allow the student to attend the public safety telecommunication
 606 training program at another public high school in the district.

607 (b) This subsection does not require a school district to
 608 provide transportation for a student to attend the public safety
 609 telecommunication training program at another public high school
 610 in the district.

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611 Section 10. Section 1003.49966, Florida Statutes, is
 612 created to read:

613 1003.49966 Law Enforcement Explorer Program.—

614 (1) Each district school board is encouraged to partner
 615 with a law enforcement agency to offer a law enforcement
 616 explorer program at public middle and high schools in the state
 617 to educate students about law enforcement careers and the
 618 criminal justice system.

619 (2) A law enforcement explorer program may be integrated
 620 into existing curriculum, offered as an elective course, or
 621 offered as an after-school program.

622 (3) If a district school board offers a law enforcement
 623 explorer program as an elective course, a student enrolled in
 624 such course shall receive middle school or high school course
 625 credit for successful completion of the course.

626 Section 11. Section 1004.098, Florida Statutes, is created
 627 to read:

628 1004.098 College credit for law enforcement training.—

629 (1) As used in this section:

630 (a) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 631 provided in s. 943.10(1).

632 (b) "Law enforcement training and experience" means
 633 training courses, specialized assignments or work experience,
 634 and other similar activities performed by a person during his or
 635 her service as a law enforcement officer that require education

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636 beyond the basic skills of an officer.

637 (2) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and the
638 State Board of Education shall adopt rules that create a process
639 that enables eligible law enforcement officers or former law
640 enforcement officers to earn uniform postsecondary credit across
641 all Florida public postsecondary educational institutions for
642 college-level training and education acquired while serving as a
643 law enforcement officer. The regulations and rules shall include
644 procedures for credential evaluation and the uniform award of
645 postsecondary credit or career education clock hours, including,
646 but not limited to, equivalency and alignment of law enforcement
647 training with appropriate postsecondary courses and course
648 descriptions.

649 (3) The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall convene
650 a workgroup by September 1, 2022, which is responsible for
651 developing a process for determining postsecondary course
652 equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career
653 education clock hours that must be awarded for law enforcement
654 training and experience.

655 (a) The workgroup shall be composed of the following 14
656 members:

657 1. The chair of the Articulation Coordinating Committee,
658 or his or her designee, who shall serve as chair.

659 2. Four members representing academic affairs
660 administrators and faculty from state universities, appointed by

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661 the chair of the Board of Governors.

662 3. Four members representing academic affairs
 663 administrators and faculty from Florida College System
 664 institutions, appointed by the chair of the State Board of
 665 Education.

666 4. Two members representing faculty from career centers,
 667 appointed by the State Board of Education.

668 5. A representative from the Florida Sheriffs Association.

669 6. A representative from the Florida Police Chiefs
 670 Association.

671 7. A representative from the Criminal Justice Standards
 672 and Training Commission.

673 (b) The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide
 674 administrative support for the workgroup.

675 (c) The workgroup shall establish a process for
 676 prioritizing and determining postsecondary course equivalencies
 677 and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock
 678 hours that must be awarded for law enforcement training and
 679 experience. The workgroup shall provide recommendations to the
 680 Board of Governors and the State Board of Education by March 1,
 681 2023, for approval at the next meeting of each board to allow
 682 for adequate public notice. The workgroup shall terminate upon
 683 submission of its recommendations.

684 (d) Upon approval of the workgroup's recommendations by
 685 the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, the

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686 Articulation Coordinating Committee shall facilitate the review
 687 of law enforcement training and experience for postsecondary
 688 course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or
 689 career education clock hours that must be awarded in accordance
 690 with the approved process.

691 (e) Within 1 year after approval of the workgroup's
 692 recommendations by the Board of Governors and the State Board of
 693 Education pursuant to paragraph (c), the Articulation
 694 Coordinating Committee shall approve a prioritized list of
 695 postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary
 696 credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded for
 697 law enforcement training and experience. The list must be
 698 updated annually. The Board of Governors and the State Board of
 699 Education shall timely adopt the list approved by the
 700 Articulation Coordinating Committee at the next meeting of each
 701 board to allow for adequate public notice. For the purpose of
 702 statewide application, postsecondary course equivalencies and
 703 the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours
 704 that must be awarded for law enforcement training and experience
 705 shall be delineated by the State Board of Education and the
 706 Board of Governors in the statewide articulation agreement
 707 required by s. 1007.23(1).

708 (f) State universities, Florida College System
 709 institutions, and career centers must award postsecondary credit
 710 or career education clock hours for law enforcement training and

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711 experience based on the list adopted by the Board of Governors
 712 and the State Board of Education pursuant to paragraph (e) if
 713 the credit or career education clock hours are applicable toward
 714 the student's degree or certificate. Institutions may award
 715 additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours
 716 if appropriate. Credit or career education clock hours awarded
 717 in accordance with minimum postsecondary credit and clock hour
 718 requirements, respectively, are guaranteed to transfer to other
 719 state universities, Florida College System institutions, and
 720 career centers.

721 Section 12. Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes, is created
 722 to read:

723 1009.896 Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship
 724 Program.—

725 (1) As used in this section, the term:

726 (a) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and
 727 Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.

728 (b) "Department" means the Department of Education.

729 (c) "Employing agency" has the same meaning as provided in
 730 s. 943.10(4).

731 (d) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 732 provided in s. 943.10(1).

733 (e) "Scholarship program" means the Florida Law
 734 Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program.

735 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the

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736 Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program is created
 737 to assist in the recruitment of law enforcement officers within
 738 the state by providing financial assistance to trainees who
 739 enroll in a commission-approved law enforcement officer basic
 740 recruit training program.

741 (3) The department shall administer the scholarship
 742 program, in consultation with the Department of Law Enforcement,
 743 according to the rules and procedures established by the State
 744 Board of Education.

745 (4) The scholarship shall be awarded on a first-come,
 746 first-served basis based on the date the department receives
 747 each completed application, and is contingent upon an
 748 appropriation by the Legislature.

749 (5) To be eligible for the scholarship award a trainee
 750 must:

751 (a) Be enrolled in a commission-approved basic recruit
 752 training program at a Florida College System institution or
 753 school district technical center for the purposes of meeting the
 754 minimum qualifications under s. 943.13(9) for employment or
 755 appointment as a law enforcement officer.

756 (b) Not be sponsored by an employing agency that is
 757 already covering the cost of a basic recruit training program.

758 (6) The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount
 759 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which
 760 are necessary to complete the basic recruit training program,

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761 less any state financial aid received by the trainee. The award
 762 to trainees shall cover:

763 (a) The cost of tuition.

764 (b) Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22(3), (5),
 765 (6), and (7), and 1009.23 (3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);
 766 however, any award for a nonresident trainee shall not include
 767 the out-of-state fee.

768 (c) Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses including:

769 1. The officer certification examination fee established
 770 pursuant to s. 943.1397.

771 2. Textbooks.

772 3. Uniforms.

773 4. Ammunition.

774 5. Required insurance.

775 6. Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable
 776 materials required to complete the basic recruit training
 777 program.

778 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 779 necessary to administer this section.

780 Section 13. Section 1009.8961, Florida Statutes, is
 781 created to read:

782 1009.8961 Reimbursement for out-of-state and special
 783 operations forces law enforcement equivalency training.-

784 (1) As used in this section, the term:

785 (a) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and

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786 Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.
 787 (b) "Department" means the Department of Education.
 788 (c) "Employing agency" has the same meaning as provided in
 789 s. 943.10(4).
 790 (d) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 791 provided in s. 943.10(1).
 792 (e) "Special operations forces" has the same meaning as
 793 provided in s. 943.10(22).
 794 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the
 795 department, in consultation with the Department of Law
 796 Enforcement, shall reimburse eligible applicants who relocate
 797 from outside the state or who transition from service in the
 798 special operations forces to become a full-time law enforcement
 799 officer within this state for eligible expenses incurred while
 800 obtaining a Florida law enforcement officer certification.
 801 (3) To be eligible for reimbursement under this section,
 802 an applicant's employing agency must certify that he or she:
 803 (a) Meets the requirements of s. 943.131(2) to qualify for
 804 an exemption from the basic recruit training program.
 805 (b) Was not sponsored by the employing agency to cover the
 806 cost of any commission required training.
 807 (4) Reimbursement shall be awarded on a first-come, first-
 808 served basis based on the date the department received each
 809 completed application and is contingent upon an appropriation by
 810 the Legislature.

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811 (5) Eligible applicants may be reimbursed for eligible
 812 costs and fees up to \$1,000, which include any cost or fee
 813 incurred for:

814 (a) Any equivalency assessment administered to determine
 815 required equivalency training.

816 (b) Any equivalency training required by the commission.

817 (c) The law enforcement officer certification examination.

818 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 819 necessary to administer this section.

820 Section 14. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.