A bill to be entitled An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; amending s. 1007.27, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 1007.35, F.S.; requiring public middle schools to provide for the administration of the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test to students who meet specified criteria to help such students qualify for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; providing for an exemption from such test; requiring specified test preparation resources and information be provided to certain students for a specified time period; providing continued eligibility criteria for students receiving such resources and information; providing for the funding for such assessments and resources; amending ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535, F.S.; revising the eligibility criteria for certain awards under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1007.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.—

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26 (1)

(b) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall identify Florida College System institutions and state universities to develop courses that align with s. 1007.25 for students in secondary education and provide the training required under s. 1007.35(7) s. 1007.35(6).

Section 2. Subsections (6) through (10) of section 1007.35, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7) through (11), respectively, paragraph (a) of subsection (9) is amended, and a new subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

1007.35 Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement.—

- (6) (a) For the purpose of helping minority and underrepresented students qualify for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, each public middle school, including, but not limited to, schools and alternative sites and centers of the Department of Juvenile Justice, shall provide for the administration of the PSAT/NMSQT to enrolled minority and underrepresented students in 8th grade who have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. However, written notice shall be provided to each parent which must include the opportunity to exempt his or her child from taking the PSAT/NMSQT.
- (b)1. Students with a score of 1,000 or higher shall be provided all of the following:

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a. Online or in-person SAT or ACT preparation courses or access to other evidence-based SAT or ACT preparation resources.

b. Information on all eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

- 2. The resources provided under this paragraph shall be offered to eligible students until such students are provided the opportunity to take the SAT, ACT, or Classical Learning Test in 11th grade pursuant to s. 1008.22(3)(c).
- 3. To remain eligible for the resources provided under this paragraph, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.
- (c) Funding for the administration of the PSAT/NMSQT and the resources provided under this subsection shall be provided using lottery funds deposited into the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund.
- (9)(a) Except as provided in subsection (6), funding for the partnership shall be contingent upon annual funding in the General Appropriations Act.
- Section 3. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.-
- (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and:
 - (e) Has been recognized by the College Board National

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Hispanic Recognition Programs Program as a scholar recipient.

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The student must complete a program of volunteer service or, beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, paid work, as approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, which must include 100 hours of volunteer service, paid work, or a combination of both. Eliqible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in the student's total of paid work hours. The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her volunteer service or paid work experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section

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1009.535, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.-

- (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and:
- (e) Has been recognized by the <u>College Board</u> National <u>Hispanic</u> Recognition <u>Programs</u> Program as a scholar, but has not completed the program of volunteer service or paid work required under s. 1009.534.

A high school student must complete a program of volunteer service or, beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, paid work approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, which must include 75 hours of volunteer service, 100 hours of paid work, or 100 hours of a combination of both. Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in a student's total of required paid work hours. The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her volunteer service or paid work experience. Such volunteer

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service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

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Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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