CHAPTER 2014-62

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 851

An act relating to postsecondary education tuition and fees; amending s. 1009.98, F.S.; revising the definition of the term “tuition differential”; revising the purchase date of an advance payment contract as it relates to the amount paid by the Florida Prepaid College Board to a state university on behalf of a qualified beneficiary; limiting the amount paid by the board to a state university on behalf of a qualified beneficiary; amending ss. 1009.22 and 1009.23, F.S.; revising the standard tuition and out-of-state fee for certain workforce education postsecondary programs and certain programs at Florida College System institutions; deleting a provision relating to an increase in tuition and the out-of-state fee at a rate equal to inflation; amending s. 1009.24, F.S.; revising state university resident undergraduate tuition; deleting a provision relating to an increase in resident undergraduate tuition at a rate equal to inflation; authorizing the Board of Governors to approve the establishment of or an increase in tuition differential for a state research university designated as a preeminent state research university; revising the annual percentage increase allowed in the aggregate sum of tuition and the tuition differential; providing requirements for an increase in the tuition differential for certain universities; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; requiring a state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district, or charter technical career center to waive undergraduate tuition for a recipient of a Purple Heart or another combat decoration superior in precedence under certain conditions; providing for the waiver of out-of-state fees for students based on certain attendance, graduation, and enrollment requirements; requiring reporting to the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education relating to the number and value of the fee waivers; providing requirements for calculating the state university systemwide enrollment of nonresident students; restricting eligibility for state financial aid; requiring a state university, a Florida College System institution, a career center operated by a school district, or a charter technical career center to prioritize enrollment of certain veterans; amending s. 1009.21, F.S., relating to the determination of resident status for tuition purposes; revising the definition of the term “parent”; revising a residency requirement for a dependent child; prohibiting denial of classification as a resident for tuition purposes based on certain immigration status; revising requirements relating to classification as a resident for tuition purposes based on marriage; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (10) of section 1009.98, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
(10) PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES.—

(a) As used in this subsection, the term:

1. “Actuarial reserve” means the amount by which the expected value of the assets exceed the expected value of the liabilities of the trust fund.

2. “Dormitory fees” means the fees included under advance payment contracts pursuant to paragraph (2)(d).

3. “Fiscal year” means the fiscal year of the state pursuant to s. 215.01.

4. “Local fees” means the fees covered by an advance payment contract provided pursuant to subparagraph (2)(b)2.

5. “Tuition differential” means the fee covered by advance payment contracts sold pursuant to subparagraph (2)(b)3. The base rate for the tuition differential fee for the 2012-2013 fiscal year is established at $37.03 per credit hour. The base rate for the tuition differential in subsequent years is the amount assessed by the board for the tuition differential fee for the preceding year adjusted pursuant to subparagraph (b)2.

(b) Effective with the 2009-2010 academic year and thereafter, and notwithstanding the provisions of s. 1009.24, the amount paid by the board to any state university on behalf of a qualified beneficiary of an advance payment contract whose contract was purchased before July 1, 2009, shall be:

1. As to registration fees, if the actuarial reserve is less than 5 percent of the expected liabilities of the trust fund, the board shall pay the state universities 5.5 percent above the amount assessed for registration fees in the preceding fiscal year. If the actuarial reserve is between 5 percent and 6 percent of the expected liabilities of the trust fund, the board shall pay the state universities 6 percent above the amount assessed for registration fees in the preceding fiscal year. If the actuarial reserve is between 6 percent and 7.5 percent of the expected liabilities of the trust fund, the board shall pay the state universities 6.5 percent above the amount assessed for registration fees in the preceding fiscal year. If the actuarial reserve is equal to or greater than 7.5 percent of the expected liabilities of the trust fund, the board shall pay the state universities 7 percent above the amount assessed for registration fees in the preceding fiscal year, whichever is greater.

2. As to the tuition differential, if the actuarial reserve is less than 5 percent of the expected liabilities of the trust fund, the board shall pay the state universities 5.5 percent above the base rate for the tuition differential fee in the preceding fiscal year. If the actuarial reserve is between 5 percent and 6 percent of the expected liabilities of the trust fund, the board shall pay the state universities 6 percent above the base rate for the tuition differential fee in the preceding fiscal year, whichever is greater.

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fee in the preceding fiscal year. If the actuarial reserve is between 6 percent and 7.5 percent of the expected liabilities of the trust fund, the board shall pay the state universities 6.5 percent above the base rate for the tuition differential fee in the preceding fiscal year. If the actuarial reserve is equal to or greater than 7.5 percent of the expected liabilities of the trust fund, the board shall pay the state universities 7 percent above the base rate for the tuition differential fee in the preceding fiscal year.

3. As to local fees, the board shall pay the state universities 5 percent above the amount assessed for local fees in the preceding fiscal year.

4. As to dormitory fees, the board shall pay the state universities 6 percent above the amount assessed for dormitory fees in the preceding fiscal year.

5. Qualified beneficiaries of advance payment contracts purchased before July 1, 2007, are exempt from paying any tuition differential fee.

(c) Notwithstanding the amount assessed for registration fees, the tuition differential, or local fees, the amount paid by the board to any state university on behalf of a qualified beneficiary of an advance payment contract purchased before July 1, 2024, may not exceed 100 percent of the amount charged by the state university for the aggregate sum of those fees.

(d) Notwithstanding the amount assessed for dormitory fees, the amount paid by the board to any state university on behalf of a qualified beneficiary of an advance payment contract purchased before July 1, 2024, may not exceed 100 percent of the amount charged by the state university for dormitory fees.

(e) The board shall pay state universities the actual amount assessed in accordance with law for registration fees, the tuition differential, local fees, and dormitory fees for advance payment contracts purchased on or after July 1, 2024.

(f) The board shall annually evaluate or cause to be evaluated the actuarial soundness of the trust fund.

Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (g) of subsection (3) of section 1009.22, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.22 Workforce education postsecondary student fees.—

(3)

(c) Effective July 1, 2014, for programs leading to a career certificate or an applied technology diploma, the standard tuition shall be $2.33 per contact hour for residents and nonresidents and the out-of-state fee shall be $6.99 per contact hour. For adult general education programs, a block tuition of $45 per half year or $30 per term shall be assessed for residents and nonresidents, and the out-of-state fee shall be $135 per half year.
year or $90 per term. Each district school board and Florida College System institution board of trustees shall adopt policies and procedures for the collection of and accounting for the expenditure of the block tuition. All funds received from the block tuition shall be used only for adult general education programs. Students enrolled in adult general education programs may not be assessed the fees authorized in subsection (5), subsection (6), or subsection (7).

(d) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year and each year thereafter, the tuition and the out-of-state fee per contact hour shall increase at the beginning of each fall semester at a rate equal to inflation, unless otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall report the rate of inflation to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, and the State Board of Education each year prior to March 1. For purposes of this paragraph, the rate of inflation shall be defined as the rate of the 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, or successor reports as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor for December of the previous year. In the event the percentage change is negative, the tuition and out-of-state fee shall remain at the same level as the prior fiscal year.

(d)(e) Each district school board and each Florida College System institution board of trustees may adopt tuition and out-of-state fees that may vary no more than 5 percent below and 5 percent above the combined total of the standard tuition and out-of-state fees established in paragraph (c).

(e)(f) The maximum increase in resident tuition for any school district or Florida College System institution during the 2007-2008 fiscal year shall be 5 percent over the tuition charged during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

(f)(g) The State Board of Education may adopt, by rule, the definitions and procedures that district school boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall use in the calculation of cost borne by students.

Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 1009.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—

(3)(a) Effective July 1, 2014, for advanced and professional, postsecondary vocational, developmental education, and educator preparation institute programs, the standard tuition shall be $71.98 per credit hour for residents and nonresidents, and the out-of-state fee shall be $215.94 per credit hour.

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(b) Effective July 1, 2014, for baccalaureate degree programs, the following tuition and fee rates shall apply:

1. The tuition shall be $91.79 for students who are residents for tuition purposes.

2. The sum of the tuition and the out-of-state fee per credit hour for students who are nonresidents for tuition purposes shall be no more than 85 percent of the sum of the tuition and the out-of-state fee at the state university nearest the Florida College System institution.

(c) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year and each year thereafter, the tuition and the out of state fee shall increase at the beginning of each fall semester at a rate equal to inflation, unless otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall report the rate of inflation to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, and the State Board of Education each year prior to March 1. For purposes of this paragraph, the rate of inflation shall be defined as the rate of the 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, or successor reports as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor for December of the previous year. In the event the percentage change is negative, the tuition and the out of state fee per credit hour shall remain at the same levels as the prior fiscal year.

Section 4. Subsections (4) and (16) of section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.24 State university student fees.—

4. The resident undergraduate tuition for lower-level and upper-level coursework shall be $105.07 per credit hour.

(b) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year and each year thereafter, the resident undergraduate tuition per credit hour shall increase at the beginning of each fall semester at a rate equal to inflation, unless otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall report the rate of inflation to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, and the Board of Governors each year prior to March 1. For purposes of this paragraph, the rate of inflation shall be defined as the rate of the 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, or successor reports as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor for December of the previous year. In the event the percentage change is negative, the resident undergraduate tuition shall remain at the same level as the prior fiscal year.

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The Board of Governors, or the board’s designee, may establish tuition for graduate and professional programs, and out-of-state fees for all programs. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the sum of tuition and out-of-state fees assessed to nonresident students must be sufficient to offset the full instructional cost of serving such students. However, adjustments to out-of-state fees or tuition for graduate programs and professional programs may not exceed 15 percent in any year.

The Board of Governors may consider and approve flexible tuition policies as requested by a university board of trustees in accordance with the provisions of subsection (15) only to the extent such policies are in alignment with the mission of the university and do not increase the state’s fiscal liability or obligations, including, but not limited to, any fiscal liability or obligation for programs authorized under ss. 1009.53-1009.538 and ss. 1009.97-1009.984.

The sum of the activity and service, health, and athletic fees a student is required to pay to register for a course may not exceed 40 percent of the tuition established in law or in the General Appropriations Act. No university shall be required to lower any fee in effect on the effective date of this act in order to comply with this subsection. Within the 40 percent cap, universities may not increase the aggregate sum of activity and service, health, and athletic fees more than 5 percent per year, or the same percentage increase in tuition authorized under paragraph (b), whichever is greater, unless specifically authorized in law or in the General Appropriations Act. A university may increase its athletic fee to defray the costs associated with changing National Collegiate Athletic Association divisions. Any such increase in the athletic fee may exceed both the 40 percent cap and the 5 percent cap imposed by this subsection. Any such increase must be approved by the athletic fee committee in the process outlined in subsection (12) and may not exceed $2 per credit hour. Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1009.534, 1009.535, and 1009.536, that portion of any increase in an athletic fee pursuant to this subsection which causes the sum of the activity and service, health, and athletic fees to exceed the 40 percent cap or the annual increase in such fees to exceed the 5 percent cap may not be included in calculating the amount a student receives for a Florida Academic Scholars award, a Florida Medallion Scholars award, or a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award. Notwithstanding this paragraph and subject to approval by the board of trustees, each state university may be authorized to exceed the 5-percent cap on the annual increase to the aggregate sum of activity and service, health, and athletic fees for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Any such increase may not exceed 15 percent or the amount required to reach the 2009-2010 fiscal year statewide average for the aggregate sum of activity and service, health, and athletic fees at the main campuses, whichever is greater.

Any increase in the activity and service fee, health fee, or athletic fee must be approved by the appropriate fee committee pursuant to subsection (10), subsection (11), or subsection (12).
This subsection does not prohibit a university from increasing or assessing optional fees related to specific activities if payment of such fees is not required as a part of registration for courses.

Each university board of trustees may establish a tuition differential for undergraduate courses upon receipt of approval from the Board of Governors. However, beginning July 1, 2014, the Board of Governors may only approve the establishment of or an increase in tuition differential for a state research university designated as a preeminent state research university pursuant to s. 1001.7065(3). The tuition differential shall promote improvements in the quality of undergraduate education and shall provide financial aid to undergraduate students who exhibit financial need.

Seventy percent of the revenues from the tuition differential shall be expended for purposes of undergraduate education. Such expenditures may include, but are not limited to, increasing course offerings, improving graduation rates, increasing the percentage of undergraduate students who are taught by faculty, decreasing student-faculty ratios, providing salary increases for faculty who have a history of excellent teaching in undergraduate courses, improving the efficiency of the delivery of undergraduate education through academic advisement and counseling, and reducing the percentage of students who graduate with excess hours. This expenditure for undergraduate education may not be used to pay the salaries of graduate teaching assistants. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the remaining 30 percent of the revenues from the tuition differential, or the equivalent amount of revenue from private sources, shall be expended to provide financial aid to undergraduate students who exhibit financial need, including students who are scholarship recipients under s. 1009.984, to meet the cost of university attendance. This expenditure for need-based financial aid shall not supplant the amount of need-based aid provided to undergraduate students in the preceding fiscal year from financial aid fee revenues, the direct appropriation for financial assistance provided to state universities in the General Appropriations Act, or from private sources. The total amount of tuition differential waived under subparagraph (b)8. may be included in calculating the expenditures for need-based financial aid to undergraduate students required by this subsection. If the entire tuition and fee costs of resident students who have applied for and received Pell Grant funds have been met and the university has excess funds remaining from the 30 percent of the revenues from the tuition differential required to be used to assist students who exhibit financial need, the university may expend the excess portion in the same manner as required for the other 70 percent of the tuition differential revenues.

Each tuition differential is subject to the following conditions:

1. The tuition differential may be assessed on one or more undergraduate courses or on all undergraduate courses at a state university.

2. The tuition differential may vary by course or courses, by campus or center location, and by institution. Each university board of trustees shall
strive to maintain and increase enrollment in degree programs related to math, science, high technology, and other state or regional high-need fields when establishing tuition differentials by course.

3. For each state university that is designated as a preeminent state research university by the Board of Governors, pursuant to s. 1001.7065 has total research and development expenditures for all fields of at least $100 million per year as reported annually to the National Science Foundation, the aggregate sum of tuition and the tuition differential may not be increased by no more than 6 15 percent of the total charged for the aggregate sum of these fees in the preceding fiscal year. The tuition differential may be increased if the university meets or exceeds performance standard targets for that university established annually by the Board of Governors for the following performance standards, amounting to no more than a 2-percent increase in the tuition differential for each performance standard:

   a. An increase in the 6-year graduation rate for full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

   b. An increase in the total annual research expenditures.

   c. An increase in the total patents awarded by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for the most recent years. For each state university that has total research and development expenditures for all fields of less than $100 million per year as reported annually to the National Science Foundation, the aggregate sum of tuition and the tuition differential may not be increased by more than 15 percent of the total charged for the aggregate sum of these fees in the preceding fiscal year.

4. The aggregate sum of undergraduate tuition and fees per credit hour, including the tuition differential, may not exceed the national average of undergraduate tuition and fees at 4-year degree-granting public postsecondary educational institutions.

5. The tuition differential shall not be included in any award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program established pursuant to ss. 1009.53-1009.538.

6. Beneficiaries having prepaid tuition contracts pursuant to s. 1009.98(2)(b) which were in effect on July 1, 2007, and which remain in effect, are exempt from the payment of the tuition differential.

7. The tuition differential may not be charged to any student who was in attendance at the university before July 1, 2007, and who maintains continuous enrollment.

8. The tuition differential may be waived by the university for students who meet the eligibility requirements for the Florida public student assistance grant established in s. 1009.50.

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9. Subject to approval by the Board of Governors, the tuition differential authorized pursuant to this subsection may take effect with the 2009 fall term.

(c) A university board of trustees may submit a proposal to the Board of Governors to implement a tuition differential for one or more undergraduate courses. At a minimum, the proposal shall:

1. Identify the course or courses for which the tuition differential will be assessed.

2. Indicate the amount that will be assessed for each tuition differential proposed.

3. Indicate the purpose of the tuition differential.

4. Indicate how the revenues from the tuition differential will be used.

5. Indicate how the university will monitor the success of the tuition differential in achieving the purpose for which the tuition differential is being assessed.

(d) The Board of Governors shall review each proposal and advise the university board of trustees of approval of the proposal, the need for additional information or revision to the proposal, or denial of the proposal. The Board of Governors shall establish a process for any university to revise a proposal or appeal a decision of the board.

(e) The Board of Governors shall submit a report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor describing the implementation of the provisions of this subsection no later than February 1 of each year. The report shall summarize proposals received by the board during the preceding fiscal year and actions taken by the board in response to such proposals. In addition, the report shall provide the following information for each university that has been approved by the board to assess a tuition differential:

1. The course or courses for which the tuition differential was assessed and the amount assessed.

2. The total revenues generated by the tuition differential.

3. With respect to waivers authorized under subparagraph (b)8., the number of students eligible for a waiver, the number of students receiving a waiver, and the value of waivers provided.

4. Detailed expenditures of the revenues generated by the tuition differential.

5. Changes in retention rates, graduation rates, the percentage of students graduating with more than 110 percent of the hours required for
graduation, pass rates on licensure examinations, the number of undergraduate course offerings, the percentage of undergraduate students who are taught by faculty, student-faculty ratios, and the average salaries of faculty who teach undergraduate courses.

(f) No state university shall be required to lower any tuition differential that was approved by the Board of Governors and in effect prior to January 1, 2009, in order to comply with the provisions of this subsection.

Section 5. Subsection (8) of section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (12) is added to that section, to read:

1009.26 Fee waivers.—

(8) A state university, a Florida College System institution, a career center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, or a charter technical career center shall waive tuition for undergraduate college credit programs and career certificate programs tuition for each recipient of a Purple Heart or another combat decoration superior in precedence who:

(a) Is enrolled as a full-time, part-time, or summer-school student in an undergraduate program that terminates in an associate or a baccalaureate degree, a college credit or certificate, or a career certificate;

(b) Is currently, and was at the time of the military action that resulted in the awarding of the Purple Heart or other combat decoration superior in precedence, a resident of this state; and

(c) Submits to the state university, the Florida College System institution, the career center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, or the charter technical career center the DD-214 form issued at the time of separation from service as documentation that the student has received a Purple Heart or another combat decoration superior in precedence. If the DD-214 is not available, other documentation may be acceptable if recognized by the United States Department of Defense or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as documenting the award.

Such a waiver for a Purple Heart recipient or recipient of another combat decoration superior in precedence shall be applicable for 110 percent of the number of required credit hours of the degree or certificate program for which the student is enrolled.

(12)(a) A state university, a Florida College System institution, a career center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, or a charter technical career center shall waive out-of-state fees for students, including, but not limited to, students who are undocumented for federal immigration purposes, who meet the following conditions:

1. Attended a secondary school in this state for 3 consecutive years immediately before graduating from a high school in this state;

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2. Apply for enrollment in an institution of higher education within 24 months after high school graduation; and

3. Submit an official Florida high school transcript as evidence of attendance and graduation.

(b) Tuition and fees charged to a student who qualifies for the out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection may not exceed the tuition and fees charged to a resident student. The waiver is applicable for 110 percent of the required credit hours of the degree or certificate program for which the student is enrolled. Each state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, and charter technical career center shall report to the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, respectively, the number and value of all fee waivers granted annually under this subsection. By October 1 of each year, the Board of Governors for the state universities and the State Board of Education for Florida College System institutions, career centers operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, and charter technical career centers shall annually report for the previous academic year the percentage of resident and nonresident students enrolled systemwide.

(c) A state university student granted an out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection must be considered a nonresident student for purposes of calculating the systemwide total enrollment of nonresident students as limited by regulation of the Board of Governors. In addition, a student who is granted an out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection is not eligible for state financial aid under part III of this chapter and must not be reported as a resident for tuition purposes.

(d) A state university, a Florida College System institution, a career center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, or a charter technical career center shall, within the nonresident student enrollment systemwide, prioritize the enrollment of a veteran who is granted an out-of-state fee waiver pursuant to the Congressman C.W. Bill Young Tuition Waiver Act over a student who is granted an out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection.

Section 6. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection (2), and subsection (5) of section 1009.21, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (d) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

1009.21 Determination of resident status for tuition purposes.—Students shall be classified as residents or nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in postsecondary educational programs offered by charter technical career centers or career centers operated by school districts, in Florida College System institutions, and in state universities.

(1) As used in this section, the term:
“Parent” means either or both parents of a student, any guardian of a student, or any person in a parental relationship to a student the natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian of a dependent child.

(b) However, with respect to a dependent child living with an adult relative other than the child’s parent, such child may qualify as a resident for tuition purposes if the adult relative is a legal resident who has maintained legal residence in this state for at least 12 consecutive months immediately before the child’s initial enrollment in an institution of higher education, provided the child has resided continuously with such relative for the 3 years immediately before the child’s initial enrollment in an institution of higher education, during which time the adult relative has exercised day-to-day care, supervision, and control of the child.

(d) A dependent child who is a United States citizen may not be denied classification as a resident for tuition purposes based solely upon the immigration status of his or her parent.

(5) A person who physically resides in this state may be classified as a resident for tuition purposes if he or she marries a person who meets the 12-month residency requirement under subsection (2) and who is a legal resident of this state. In making a domiciliary determination related to the classification of a person as a resident or nonresident for tuition purposes, the domicile of a married person, irrespective of sex, shall be determined, as in the case of an unmarried person, by reference to all relevant evidence of domiciliary intent. For the purposes of this section:

(a) A person shall not be precluded from establishing or maintaining legal residence in this state and subsequently qualifying or continuing to qualify as a resident for tuition purposes solely by reason of marriage to a person domiciled outside this state, even when that person’s spouse continues to be domiciled outside of this state, provided such person maintains his or her legal residence in this state.

(b) A person shall not be deemed to have established or maintained a legal residence in this state and subsequently to have qualified or continued to qualify as a resident for tuition purposes solely by reason of marriage to a person domiciled in this state.

(c) In determining the domicile of a married person, irrespective of sex, the fact of the marriage and the place of domicile of such person’s spouse shall be deemed relevant evidence to be considered in ascertaining domiciliary intent.

Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor June 9, 2014.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 9, 2014.