

CHAPTER 2022-23

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 3

An act relating to law enforcement; amending s. 30.49, F.S.; authorizing a sheriff to transfer funds between specified categories and code levels after his or her budget is approved; amending s. 145.071, F.S.; revising salary minimums for county sheriffs; amending s. 409.1664, F.S.; providing for adoption benefits for law enforcements officers; providing requirements to receive such benefits; providing procedures to obtain such benefits; creating s. 445.08, F.S.; creating the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity; providing definitions; providing for one-time bonus payments to newly-employed law enforcement officers; providing requirements for award of bonus payments; requiring the department to develop an annual plan for the administration of the program and distribution of payments; authorizing employing agencies to assist the department with the collection of specified data to collect such payments; providing plan requirements; providing eligibility requirements for the plan; requiring the department to consult quarterly with the commission to verify specified information; providing for reporting; authorizing the department to submit certain information for a specified purpose; providing for use of a funding; requiring rulemaking; providing for expiration of the program; amending s. 683.11, F.S.; providing for the designation of “Law Enforcement Appreciation Day”; amending s. 943.17, F.S.; providing an exemption from certain law enforcement officer training requirements for military veterans; creating s. 943.1745, F.S.; providing requirements for skills training for law enforcement officers relating to officer health and safety; amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; providing eligibility for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program for children of law enforcement officers; creating s. 1003.4933, F.S.; providing for each district school board to establish a public safety telecommunication training program; authorizing the district to partner with programs operated by certain entities; requiring school districts to allow certain students to enroll in such a program under specified circumstances; providing exceptions; creating s. 1003.49966, F.S.; providing for each district school board to offer a law enforcement explorer program; authorizing the school board to partner with law enforcement agencies to offer such programs; providing for a student to receive course credit if such a program is offered as an elective; creating s. 1004.098, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education to create a process that enables eligible law enforcement officers or former law enforcement officers to earn uniform postsecondary credit across all Florida public postsecondary educational institutions for college-level training and education acquired while serving as a law enforcement officer; requiring the Articulation Coordinating Committee to convene a workgroup by a specified date to facilitate such process; providing membership of the workgroup; providing a timetable for the process; creating s. 1009.896,

F.S.; providing definitions; creating the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program; providing requirements for receipt of such a scholarship; providing procedures for the program; proving for the amount of such awards; requiring rulemaking; creating s. 1009.8961, F.S.; providing definitions; providing for reimbursement for out-of-state and special operations forces law enforcement equivalency training; providing requirements for receipt of such reimbursement; providing procedures for such reimbursement; providing for amount of such awards; requiring rulemaking; providing an effective date.

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

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

30.49 Budgets.—

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

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

145.071 Sheriff.—

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

Pop. Group	County Pop. Range		Base Salary	Group Rate
	Minimum	Maximum		
I	-0-	49,999	28,350	\$0.07875
			<u>23,350</u>	
II	50,000	99,999	31,500	0.06300
			<u>26,500</u>	
III	100,000	199,999	34,650	0.02625
			<u>29,650</u>	
IV	200,000	399,999	37,275	0.01575
			<u>32,275</u>	
V	400,000	999,999	40,425	0.00525
			<u>35,425</u>	
VI	1,000,000		43,575	0.00400
			<u>38,575</u>	

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

409.1664 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive employees of state agencies, veterans, ~~and servicemembers, and law enforcement officers.~~—

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

(b) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as provided in s. 943.10(1).

(2) A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or servicemember who adopts a child within the child welfare system who has special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A law enforcement officer who adopts a child within the child welfare system who has special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$25,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or servicemember who adopts a child within the child welfare system who does not have special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A law enforcement officer who adopts a child within the child welfare system who does not have special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per each such child, subject to applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the Florida Virtual School may retroactively apply for the monetary benefit provided in this subsection if such employee was employed by a charter school or the Florida Virtual School when he or she adopted a child within the child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015. A veteran or servicemember may apply for the monetary benefit provided in this subsection if he or she is domiciled in this state and adopts a child within the child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2020. A law enforcement officer may apply for the monetary benefit provided in this subsection if he or she is domiciled in this state and adopts a child within the child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2022.

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

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

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

(3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his or her agency head, or to his or her school director in the case of a qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the Florida Virtual School, to obtain the monetary benefit provided in subsection (2). A veteran or servicemember must apply to the department to obtain the benefit. A law enforcement officer must apply to the Department of Law Enforcement to obtain the benefit. Applications must be on forms approved by the department and must include a certified copy of the final order of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent. Monetary benefits shall be approved on a first-come, first-served basis based upon the date that each fully completed application is received by the department.

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

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

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

445.08 Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program.

(1) For the purposes of this section, the term:

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

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

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

(d) "Newly employed officer" means a person who gains or is appointed to full-time employment as a certified law enforcement officer with a Florida criminal justice employing agency on or after July 1, 2022, and who has never before been employed as a law enforcement officer in this state.

(e) "Program" means the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program.

(2) There is created within the department the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program, to aid in the recruitment of law enforcement officers within the state. The purpose of the program is to administer one-time bonus payments of up to \$5,000 to each newly employed

officer within the state. Bonus payments provided to eligible newly employed officers are contingent upon legislative appropriations and shall be prorated subject to the amount appropriated for the program.

(3) Each bonus payment shall be adjusted to include 7.65 percent for the officer's share of Federal Insurance Contribution Act tax on the payment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(9) This section expires July 1, 2025.

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

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

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

(2)(4) The month of May of each year is hereby designated as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Month."

(3)(2) The Governor and the mayor of each municipality may issue annually a proclamation designating May 1 as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day" and the month of May as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Month" and urging all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations and public and private educational institutions to recognize and observe this occasion through appropriate programs, meetings, services, or celebrations in which state, county, and local law enforcement officers are invited to participate.

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

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

(1) The commission shall:

(g) Assure that entrance into the basic recruit training program for law enforcement and correctional officers be limited to those who have passed a basic skills examination and assessment instrument, based on a job task analysis in each discipline and adopted by the commission. However, a person is not required to take the basic skills examination and assessment instrument before entering a law enforcement officer basic recruit training program if he or she is a veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14) or holds an associate degree or higher from an accredited college or university.

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

943.1745 Training relating to officer health and wellness principles.—

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

(2) By July 1, 2023, the commission shall by rule require that each law enforcement officer receive, as part of the 40 hours of required instruction for continued employment or appointment as an officer, instruction on health and wellness principles specific to the law enforcement profession. The commission shall consult with the Florida State University Institute for Justice Research and Development and the Resiliency Behind the Badge training program to develop the training component relating to officer health and wellness principles. The training must include, but need not be limited to, understanding the role secondary trauma and work related incidents have on the personal life of an officer; methods for identifying and addressing personal and work related stressors; strategies to better understand when to seek professional help and what kind of professional help to seek; and strategies to normalize conversations about stress, trauma, and mental health within the law enforcement community.

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

1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(k) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as provided in s. 943.10(1).

(3) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—

(a) A parent of a student may request and receive from the state a scholarship for the purposes specified in paragraph (4)(a) if:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Priority must be given to a student whose household income level does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who is in foster care or out-of-home care.

(12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

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

a. Received a scholarship pursuant to s. 1002.395 during the previous school year but did not receive a renewal scholarship based solely on the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization’s lack of available funds after the organization fully exhausted its efforts to use funds available for

awards under ss. 1002.395 and 1002.40(11)(i). Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations with students who meet the criterion in this subparagraph must annually notify the department in a format and by a date established by the department. The maximum number of scholarships awarded pursuant to this subparagraph shall not exceed 15,000 per school year;

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

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

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

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

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

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

student's participation. Upon verification, the department shall transfer, from state funds only, the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. to the organization for quarterly disbursement to parents of participating students each school year in which the scholarship is in force. For a student exiting a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the Family Empowerment Scholarship calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. must be transferred from the school district in which the student last attended a public school before commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student enters the scholarship program, the organization must receive all documentation required for the student's participation, including the private school's and the student's fee schedules, at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student.

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

(b)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) are established for up to 20,000 students annually beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the maximum number of students participating in the scholarship program under this section shall annually increase by 1.0 percent of the state's total exceptional student education full-time equivalent student enrollment, not including gifted students. An eligible student who meets any of the following requirements shall be excluded from the maximum number of students if the student:

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

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

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

(I) A school district for funding during either the preceding October or February Florida Education Finance Program surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if funded under the Florida Education Finance Program;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Upon notification from an organization on July 1, September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has been approved for the program, the department shall verify that the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship pursuant to subsection (6). The organization must provide the department with the documentation necessary to verify the student's participation.

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

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

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

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

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

1003.4933 911 public safety telecommunication training programs.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1003.49966 Law Enforcement Explorer Program.—

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

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

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

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

1004.098 College credit for law enforcement training.—

(1) As used in this section:

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

(b) "Law enforcement training and experience" means training courses, specialized assignments or work experience, and other similar activities performed by a person during his or her service as a law enforcement officer that require education beyond the basic skills of an officer.

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

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

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

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

2. Four members representing academic affairs administrators and faculty from state universities, appointed by the chair of the Board of Governors.

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

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

5. A representative from the Florida Sheriffs Association.

6. A representative from the Florida Police Chiefs Association.

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

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

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

(d) Upon approval of the workgroup's recommendations by the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, the Articulation Coordinating Committee shall facilitate the review of law enforcement training and experience for postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded in accordance with the approved process.

(e) Within 1 year after approval of the workgroup's recommendations by the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education pursuant to paragraph (c), the Articulation Coordinating Committee shall approve a

prioritized list of postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded for law enforcement training and experience. The list must be updated annually. The Board of Governors and the State Board of Education shall timely adopt the list approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee at the next meeting of each board to allow for adequate public notice. For the purpose of statewide application, postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded for law enforcement training and experience shall be delineated by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors in the statewide articulation agreement required by s. 1007.23(1).

(f) State universities, Florida College System institutions, and career centers must award postsecondary credit or career education clock hours for law enforcement training and experience based on the list adopted by the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education pursuant to paragraph (e) if the credit or career education clock hours are applicable toward the student's degree or certificate. Institutions may award additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours if appropriate. Credit or career education clock hours awarded in accordance with minimum postsecondary credit and clock hour requirements, respectively, are guaranteed to transfer to other state universities, Florida College System institutions, and career centers.

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

1009.896 Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program is created to assist in the recruitment of law enforcement officers within the state by providing financial assistance to trainees who enroll in a commission-approved law enforcement officer basic recruit training program.

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

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

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

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

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

(6) The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which are necessary to complete the basic recruit training program, less any state financial aid received by the trainee. The award to trainees shall cover:

(a) The cost of tuition.

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

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

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

2. Textbooks.

3. Uniforms.

4. Ammunition.

5. Required insurance.

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

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

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

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

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

(a) “Commission” means the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.

(b) “Department” means the Department of Education.

(c) “Employing agency” has the same meaning as provided in s. 943.10(4).

(d) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as provided in s. 943.10(1).

(e) “Special operations forces” has the same meaning as provided in s. 943.10(22).

(2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the department, in consultation with the Department of Law Enforcement, shall reimburse eligible applicants who relocate from outside the state or who transition from service in the special operations forces to become a full-time law enforcement officer within this state for eligible expenses incurred while obtaining a Florida law enforcement officer certification.

(3) To be eligible for reimbursement under this section, an applicant’s employing agency must certify that he or she:

(a) Meets the requirements of s. 943.131(2) to qualify for an exemption from the basic recruit training program.

(b) Was not sponsored by the employing agency to cover the cost of any commission required training.

(4) Reimbursement shall be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis based on the date the department received each completed application and is contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature.

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

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

(b) Any equivalency training required by the commission.

(c) The law enforcement officer certification examination.

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

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

Approved by the Governor April 1, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 1, 2022.