

By Commissioner Johnson

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1                   A proposal to create  
2           Section 8 in Article IX of the State Constitution to  
3           require the Legislature to annually appropriate  
4           certain funds to be used towards postsecondary  
5           education financial assistance and to establish  
6           conditions on a student's eligibility to receive such  
7           financial assistance.

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9   Be It Proposed by the Constitution Revision Commission of  
10   Florida:

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12           Section 8 is added to Article IX of the State Constitution  
13   to read:

14                                   ARTICLE IX

15                                   EDUCATION

16           SECTION 8. Financial assistance.-

17           (a) Postsecondary education is fundamentally a public good  
18           necessary for the creation and the maintenance of a skilled  
19           workforce and a vibrant economy in this state. It is therefore a  
20           paramount duty of the state to ensure the affordability of  
21           postsecondary education to the residents of this state,  
22           especially those residents of above-average merit or substantial  
23           financial need. In order to ensure the affordability of  
24           postsecondary education, beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal  
25           year, the legislature shall, at a minimum, annually appropriate  
26           an amount equal to 100 percent of tuition and other fees for  
27           students qualifying for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
28           Program or the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program.

29           (b) At a minimum, a student must be in the 75th percentile  
30           of academic achievement to qualify for a scholarship under the  
31           Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The student shall  
32           apply for the scholarship before earning a high school diploma

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33 or high school equivalency diploma, or completing a home  
34 education program, and enroll in an eligible public or private  
35 postsecondary institution in this state within three academic  
36 years of graduation or separation from active military duty  
37 initiated upon graduation.

38 (c) A student must demonstrate an annual unmet financial  
39 need of at least \$200 to qualify for a grant under the Florida  
40 Public Student Assistance Grant Program. The student shall apply  
41 for the Pell Grant or similar federal financial aid and enroll  
42 in an eligible public or private postsecondary institution in  
43 this state.

44 (d) A student may use a scholarship or grant provided under  
45 this section toward the earning of any postsecondary credential.