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MEMORANDUM

TO: Secondary Career and Technical Education Directors
District Technical College/Center Directors

FROM: Dr. Eric Hall, Chancellor for Innovation

DATE: August 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Implementation Memo on SB 7098 and HB 7099 - Waivers and Exemptions

This year, the Florida Legislature passed and Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 7098, a bill related to death benefits, and House Bill 7099, a bill related to child welfare. These two pieces of legislation will require institutional action, involving a review of processes.

SB 7098- Death benefits

[SB 7098](#) creates s. 112.1912, F.S. and s. 295.061, F.S., that require the state to waive the cost of tuition and certain fees of the child or spouse of a deceased first responder or deceased active duty service member of the United States Armed Forces incurs at a career center, Florida College System (FCS) institution or state university.

- The amount waived must be in an amount equal to the cost of tuition and matriculation and registration fees for a total of 120 credit hours.
- The child or spouse may attend a state career center, an FCS institution or a state university on either a full-time or part-time basis.
- The benefits provided to a child under this subsection must continue until the child's 25th birthday.
- The benefits provided to a spouse under this subsection must commence within five years after the first responder's death and may continue until the 10th anniversary of that death.
- If any child or spouse who receives a waiver in accordance with this subsection fails to comply with the ordinary and minimum requirements regarding discipline and scholarship of the institution attended, such benefits must be withdrawn so long as such delinquency continues.
- Only a student in good standing in their respective institution may receive the benefits provided in this subsection.
- A child or spouse receiving benefits under this subsection must be enrolled according to the customary rules and requirements of the institution attended.

This provision applies to members of the United States Armed Forces, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, correctional probation officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians or paramedics who are accidentally killed or intentionally and unlawfully killed while performing official duties on or after July 1, 2019.

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HB 7099- Child welfare

[HB 7099](#) amends s. 1009.25, F.S., to include individuals classified under [s. 39.6225, F.S.](#) (*Guardianship Assistance Program*) in the exemption of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that provides workforce education programs, or at FCS institutions or state universities. The effective date is July 1, 2019.

Technical centers may need to review processes and identify required documentation for individuals who claim the waiver and/or exemption. The Department will be providing more in-depth guidance on this topic in the coming months. As a reminder, both bills took effect July 1, 2019. To that end, institutions shall remain committed to serving this population of students as prescribed in the current law until further guidance is issued.

If you have any questions, please contact CareerandAdultEd@fldoe.org.

EH/bg