



Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

P.O. Box 1489 | Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489 | (850) 410-8600

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION **TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2022-14**

DATE: November 29, 2022

TO: Criminal Justice Agency Administrators
Criminal Justice Training Center Directors
Criminal Justice Selection Center Directors

FROM: Director Dean Register *DR*
Criminal Justice Professionalism Division

SUBJECT: House Bill 3: Law Enforcement Officer Incentives

The Florida Legislature passed House Bill 3 to provide several incentives for law enforcement officers and trainees. The incentives and the state agency administering the incentive programs are outlined below.

Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program **Department of Economic Opportunity** **Section 445.08, Florida Statutes**

The Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program was created to aid in the recruitment of law enforcement officers in Florida. Newly employed full-time law enforcement officers must be certified on or after July 1, 2022 in order to be eligible for a one-time bonus payment of up to \$5,000. Any officer who receives a bonus must remain employed in a full-time law enforcement position for a period of two years with no break in service of more than 15 calendar days or must repay the bonus.

Commission staff is providing a report to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) on a monthly basis, which identifies any newly employed full-time law enforcement officers who become certified on or after July 1, 2022. DEO is responsible for administering the program and distributing the bonus payments.

For information regarding the program and eligibility requirements, visit the DEO website at <https://www.floridajobs.org/recognition-and-recruitment>.

Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program **Department of Education** **Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes**

Beginning with the 2022–2023 academic year, scholarships will be available to trainees who are not fully sponsored by an employing agency and who enroll in a law enforcement basic recruit training program at a Commission-approved training school affiliated with the Florida College System or a school district technical center. The scholarship will cover the tuition costs and fees associated with completing the law

enforcement basic recruit training including up to \$1,000 for expenses such as textbooks, uniforms, ammunition, insurance, and consumable materials.

The Department of Education (DOE) is responsible for administering the program and distributing the scholarship monies to academies. For more information regarding the scholarship, please contact the DOE Office of Student Financial Assistance at (888) 827-2004 or review the attached fact sheet.

Reimbursement for Out-of-State and Special Operations Forces Law Enforcement Equivalency Training

Department of Education

Section 1009.8961, Florida Statutes

Beginning with the 2022–2023 academic year, full-time law enforcement officers who were not sponsored by an employing agency and who relocated from outside the state or who transitioned from service in the special operations forces and completed an exemption from training (EOT) pursuant to s. 943.131(2), F.S., may be eligible for reimbursement for up to \$1,000 for expenses incurred to obtain Florida law enforcement certification. These expenses may include fees associated with the EOT assessment, EOT training course, and the Law Enforcement State Officer Certification Examination.

DOE is responsible for administering the program and distributing the reimbursement monies. For more information regarding the program, please contact the DOE Office of Student Financial Assistance at (888) 827-2004.

Adoption Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers

Department of Children and Families; Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Section 409.1664, Florida Statutes

Law enforcement officers who adopt a child in the child welfare system on or after July 1, 2022 may apply for a lump-sum monetary benefit. If the child has special needs described in s. 409.166(2), F.S., the monetary benefit is \$25,000 and if the child does not have special needs, the monetary benefit is \$10,000. For more information regarding the program, please contact the Department of Children and Families at (800) 962-3678 or visit their website at <http://www.adoptflorida.org/state-emp-benefits.shtml>.

If you have questions about these programs, please contact the respective program using the contact information listed above. If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Training and Research Manager Terry Baker, Bureau of Standards, at TerryBaker@fdle.state.fl.us or (850) 410-8688.

Attachment

cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission Members

Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program

[Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes](#)

Program Description

The Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program assists in the recruitment of law enforcement officers within Florida by providing financial assistance to eligible trainees who enroll in a law enforcement officer basic recruit training program approved by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (commission) at a Florida College System institution or school district technical center.

Applying for an Award

Students will need to meet eligibility requirements through the application process established by the participating institution. Applications may be obtained at the financial aid offices of eligible Florida postsecondary institutions.

Requirements to Receive Funding

To be eligible for the scholarship award, a trainee must 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 section (s.) 943.13(9), Florida Statutes (F.S.), for employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer.

Award Procedures

The scholarship shall be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligibility for awards is based on the date the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) receives each completed application from the postsecondary institution, and is contingent upon an appropriation by the Florida Legislature.

Award Disbursement

The postsecondary institution will disburse awards to eligible students each term. To be eligible for the scholarship award, a trainee must:

- 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), F.S., for employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer; and
- Not be sponsored by an employing agency that is already covering the cost of a basic recruit training program.

The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount equal to any costs and fees that are necessary to complete the basic recruit training program, less any state financial aid received by the trainee. The award to trainees shall cover:

- The cost of tuition.
- Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7), and 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11), F.S.; however, any award for a nonresident trainee shall not include the out-of-state fee.
- Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses, including:
 - The officer certification examination fee established pursuant to s. 943.1397, F.S.;
 - Textbooks;
 - Uniforms;
 - Ammunition;
 - Required insurance; and
 - Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable materials required to complete the basic recruit training program.

Updating Information

A recipient must notify the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) of any change in name, address, or institution attended.

A student may update information by logging into his or her online OSFA account at <https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome> or by calling OSFA Customer Service at 888-827-2004.

Transferring from one institution to another could affect an applicant's award.

Use of an Applicant's Social Security Number/Non-discrimination Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 requires state agencies to inform applicants of the reasons for requesting their Social Security Numbers (SSN). The FDOE requests an SSN on all applications for student financial assistance in order to correctly identify applicants, match each applicant's financial aid record with the student record at the postsecondary institution the applicant attends, and help coordinate state student aid programs with federal student aid programs.

An applicant will not be denied financial assistance for failure to disclose the SSN. Without an SSN, correct identification of an applicant's record cannot be assured and may result in an error in the award amount or a delay in the award disbursement.

Pursuant to s. 1000.05, F.S., state student financial assistance is provided to eligible applicants without discriminating on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status. Minority status will be considered when required by law as a condition of eligibility or selection.

Contact Information**Address:**

Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
State Scholarship and Grant Programs
Suite 1344
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Phone:

888-827-2004

Email:

OSFA@fldoe.org