HB 463

| 1 | A bill to be entitled |
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| 2 | An act relating to Groveland Four business loans and |
| 3 | scholarships; amending s. 288.7102, F.S.; requiring |
| 4 | the Department of Economic Opportunity to prioritize |
| 5 | certain applications for the Black Business Loan |
| 6 | Program; creating s. 1009.551, F.S.; creating the |
| 7 | Groveland Four Scholarship Program for specified |
| 8 | recipients; directing the Department of Education to |
| 9 | administer the program; specifying annual award |
| 10 | amounts to students participating in the program; |
| 11 | requiring the department to rank applicants; providing |
| 12 | for transmittal of an award payment to a participating |
| 13 | postsecondary institution; prescribing eligibility |
| 14 | criteria for award recipients; authorizing the State |
| 15 | Board of Education to adopt rules; providing for |
| 16 | program funding; providing an effective date. |
| 17 | |
| 18 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: |
| 19 | |
| 20 | Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 288.7102, Florida |
| 21 | Statutes, is amended to read: |
| 22 | 288.7102 Black Business Loan Program |
| 23 | (2) The department shall establish an application and |
| 24 | annual certification process for entities seeking funds to |
| 25 | participate in providing loans, loan guarantees, or investments |
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26 in black business enterprises pursuant to the Florida Black 27 Business Investment Act. The department shall process all 28 applications and recertifications submitted by June 1 on or 29 before July 31. The department shall prioritize any applications 30 for black business enterprises in areas directly impacted by the Groveland Four injustice. 31 32 Section 2. Section 1009.551, Florida Statutes, is created 33 to read: 34 1009.551 Groveland Four Scholarship Program.-The Groveland Four Scholarship Program is created for 35 (1) 36 the direct descendants of victims of the Groveland Four 37 injustice which occurred in July 1949 and for current African-American residents of Groveland. 38 39 (2) The Groveland Four Scholarship Program shall be 40 administered by the Department of Education. 41 (3) The annual award to a student under the program may be 42 an amount of up to \$6,100, but may not exceed the annual amount 43 of the student's tuition and registration fees. The department 44 may award up to 50 scholarships per academic year. If funds are 45 insufficient to provide a full scholarship to each eligible 46 applicant, the department may prorate available funds and make a 47 partial award to each eligible applicant. 48 (4) The department shall rank eligible initial applicants 49 for the purpose of awarding scholarships based on need, as 50 determined by the department.

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51 (5) Payment of an award must be transmitted in advance of 52 the registration period each semester on behalf of the student 53 to the president of the state university or Florida College 54 System institution, or his or her representative, or to the 55 director of the career center that the recipient is attending. 56 (6) Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, the 57 department is authorized to make awards for undergraduate study to students who do all of the following: 58 59 (a) Meet the general requirements for student eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this 60 61 section. (b) File an application for the scholarship within the 62 63 established time limits, as determined by the department. 64 (c) Enroll as certificate-seeking or degree-seeking 65 students at a state university, Florida College System 66 institution, or career center authorized by law. 67 (7) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules 68 necessary to implement and administer this section. 69 (8) Funding for the program must be as provided in the 70 General Appropriations Act. 71 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

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