

HOUSE BILL 27

By Lamberth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to Tennessee HOPE
scholarships.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a) Notwithstanding §§ 49-4-913(a)(1), 49-4-919(a)(1), 49-4-931(d)(1), and any
other provision of this part to the contrary, a Tennessee HOPE scholarship student may
continue to receive the scholarship after the student earns the student's first
baccalaureate degree, if the student:

(1) Continues to meet all applicable eligibility and academic requirements
for the student's Tennessee HOPE scholarship;

(2) Earned the student's first baccalaureate degree:

(A) In less than the number of academic semesters projected by
the eligible postsecondary institution for a full-time student to complete
the student's program of study; and

(B) While receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship; and

(3) Is admitted to and enrolled in coursework for a program of study in
pursuit of a master's degree, doctorate, or other advanced degree at an eligible
public postsecondary institution within three (3) months of the student receiving
the student's first baccalaureate degree.

(b) A student who is eligible to continue receiving the student's Tennessee HOPE scholarship after the student has earned the student's first baccalaureate degree may continue to receive the scholarship:

(1) In the amount received by the student for the last semester in which the student was making satisfactory progress in the course of study that culminated with the student earning the student's first baccalaureate degree; and

(2) For each semester that the student would have been eligible to receive the student's Tennessee HOPE scholarship had the student not completed the student's program of study in less than the number of academic semesters projected by the eligible postsecondary institution for a full-time student to earn the student's respective baccalaureate degree.

(c) This section does not allow a student to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship if five (5) years have passed from the date of the student's initial enrollment at a postsecondary institution, unless an exception or other provision of law applies.

(d) For purposes of this section, the projected number of academic semesters for a full-time student to earn a baccalaureate degree for a respective course of study is determined according to the eligible postsecondary institution's course catalog for the academic year in which the student first enrolled at the respective institution.

(e) The Tennessee student assistance corporation may promulgate rules to effectuate this section. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.