

HOUSE BILL 504

By White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 7, relative to future teacher scholarships.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-701(b)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(2) "Eligible candidate" means a student who is:

(A)

(i) Enrolled in an approved EPP in the student's junior or senior year, as determined by the institution in which the student is enrolled as an undergraduate student; or

(ii) Enrolled in an approved EPP as a post-baccalaureate student, if the student is seeking an initial educator license; and

(B) A citizen of the United States who has resided in this state for at least one (1) year prior to the student's admission to the eligible postsecondary institution at which the student is enrolled;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-701(b), is amended by deleting subdivision (4).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-701(c), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(c) Subject to available funding, TSAC shall administer a pilot program to award a Tennessee Future Teacher scholarship to future educators. The program begins with the 2023-2024 academic year and terminates on July 1, 2030.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-701(d), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(d) To be eligible for a Tennessee Future Teacher scholarship, an eligible candidate must:

- (1) Be admitted to and enrolled in an approved EPP;
- (2) Complete the scholarship application, as required by TSAC; and
- (3) Sign a promissory note agreeing to teach in an LEA or public charter school in this state for at least two (2) consecutive years in a targeted setting.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-701(f)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(2) The student no longer meets:

(A) The standards established by the state board of education for admission to the student's EPP; or

(B) The standards of the approved EPP in which the student is enrolled;

or

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-701(h), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(h) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly, the amount of the Tennessee Future Teacher scholarship is five thousand dollars (\$5,000). A Tennessee Future Teacher scholarship may be awarded to a student each academic year the student is enrolled in an approved EPP.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-701(i), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(i) If a student receives a Tennessee Future Teacher scholarship, but does not teach in a targeted setting for two (2) consecutive years, then the student must

reimburse TSAC for each year the student did not teach in a targeted setting in an amount equal to the total scholarship amount the student received pursuant to this section divided by two (2), without interest.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-701(k), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(k) The office of research and education accountability (OREA), in the office of the comptroller of treasury, shall review and study the pilot program created in this section and the Tennessee Future Teacher scholarships awarded through the pilot program to determine the effectiveness of the scholarships in increasing the number of licensed educators in this state. The study must be conducted in the fourth and seventh year of the pilot program and four (4) years after the program terminates on July 1, 2030. The OREA shall report its findings and conclusions of each study to the speakers of the senate and house of representatives and to the education committee of the senate and the committee of the house of representatives having jurisdiction over scholarships for higher education by December 31 each year a study is conducted.

SECTION 9. This act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it.