

HOUSE BILL 552

By Harmon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-913, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

() Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) to the contrary, a student who has a documented medical disability may petition for an extension of the five-year period in which a student can receive a HOPE scholarship, if because of the disability the student can only attend an eligible postsecondary institution part-time. Such extension shall not extend beyond ten (10) years from the date of the student's initial enrollment at any postsecondary institution. TSAC shall promulgate rules and regulations for the approval of extensions of time for receipt of a HOPE scholarship because of medical disabilities. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. A student who exhausted eligibility for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship prior to the effective date of this act, because five (5) years had passed since the student's initial enrollment at a postsecondary institution, but who would have qualified for an extension of the time under the provisions of Section 1 had such provisions been in effect at the time the student exhausted eligibility, may apply to TSAC to regain the Tennessee HOPE scholarship. To be eligible for an extension of time, such student shall meet all applicable academic and

nonacademic requirements for the scholarship and ten (10) years shall not have passed since the student's initial enrollment at a postsecondary institution.

SECTION 3. No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be made under the provisions of this act.

SECTION 4. Notwithstanding § 4-5-208 or any other provision of law to the contrary, the Tennessee student assistance corporation is authorized to promulgate emergency rules to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.