



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 468

HOUSE BILL NO. 740

By Representative White

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1259

By Senator Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 11; Title 49, Chapter 7 and Title 50, relative to work-based learning.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-1202, is amended by deleting the first sentence of the section and substituting instead the following:

The purpose of LEAP is to provide students in colleges of applied technology, community colleges, and, where applicable, high schools the opportunity to combine occupational training in a high-skill or high-need field with academic credit and to apply that combined work and academic experience towards acquiring a postsecondary credential.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-1206, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

Subject to appropriation by the general assembly in the annual appropriations act, the Tennessee higher education commission, in consultation with the board of regents, may award a grant to any college of applied technology or community college in this state that is located in a region where advanced training opportunities or a highly-skilled workforce is lacking. The funds from the grants must be used to establish and implement a LEAP under this part. The commission shall establish procedures for grant applications, eligibility and reporting requirements, and the maximum amount of any grant authorized by this section.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-1208, is amended by deleting the language "department of economic and community development" wherever it appears in the section and substituting instead the language "Tennessee higher education commission".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-1210, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

On or before January 15 of each year, the Tennessee higher education commission shall submit a report to the education committee of the senate and the education committee of the house of representatives detailing, for each LEAP established in this state, the academic credit attainment of participants and an overview of each program. The commission shall post the report on the commission's website.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-11-109, is amended by deleting the section.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-11-901, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

As used in this part:

(1) "Grant" means a qualified work-based learning grant issued pursuant to this part;

(2) "Grant fund" means the qualified work-based learning grant fund established by § 49-11-903;

HB 740

(3) "Program operator" means a nonprofit entity that has entered into an agreement with THEC to administer the program established by this part;

(4) "Qualified work-based learning student" means a student who is sixteen (16) years of age or older, enrolled in a Tennessee public high school, and participating in a work-based learning course for academic credit or credit toward completion of a career and technical education program;

(5) "THEC" means the Tennessee higher education commission; and

(6) "Work-based learning" means the application of academic and technical knowledge in a work setting that involves actual work experience.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-11-902, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) Each LEA implementing work-based learning shall maintain student accident insurance coverage.

(b) The department of education, in coordination with the department of labor and workforce development, the bureau of workers' compensation, and the department of economic and community development, shall make information available to employers and LEAs on applicable wage and hour laws, child labor laws, safety and health laws, workers' compensation, accident insurance, and liability insurance.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-11-903, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) THEC shall establish and administer a qualified work-based learning grant program to incentivize employer participation in work-based learning and to assist employers with costs associated with work-based learning.

(b) There is created a separate fund within the general fund to be known as the qualified work-based learning grant fund.

(c) The grant fund is composed of:

(1) Funds specifically appropriated by the general assembly for the grant fund; and

(2) Gifts, grants, and other donations received for the grant fund.

(d) Moneys in the grant fund must be invested by the state treasurer for the benefit of the grant fund in accordance with § 9-4-603. Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the grant fund must be returned to the grant fund and remain part of the grant fund.

(e) Any unencumbered funds and any unexpended balance of the grant fund remaining at the end of any fiscal year must not revert to the general fund, but must be carried forward until expended in accordance with this section.

(f) Moneys in the grant fund may only be expended with THEC's approval and in accordance with this section.

(g) THEC shall select a program operator to administer the program established by this part and shall issue a grant from funds available in the qualified work-based learning grant fund to the program operator selected by THEC.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-11-905 is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

To be eligible for a qualified work-based learning grant, an employer who accepts or employs a qualified work-based learning student must submit an application to the program operator on a form prescribed by the program operator, along with any supporting documentation required by the program operator. The program operator shall

HB 740

establish a formal process and deadline for receiving an employer's application. An employer that fails to submit an application by the program operator's established deadline shall not receive any grant allowed under this part. THEC may develop policies and procedures to approve applications.

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-11-906, is amended by deleting the language "The department" and substituting instead the language "THEC".


SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-11-907, is amended by deleting the language "the department" and substituting instead the language "THEC".

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-11-908, is amended by deleting the language "the department" and substituting instead the language "THEC".

SECTION 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 740

PASSED: May 1, 2019



GLEN CASADA, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 24th day of May 2019



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR