

SENATE BILL 43

By Summerville

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4; Title 49, Chapter 7; Title 49, Chapter 8 and Title 49, Chapter 9, relative to financial aid awarded for attendance at public institutions of higher education and to enact the "Truth in Scholarship Act".

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 7, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-4-7__.

(a). This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Truth in Scholarship Act".

(b) As used in this section, "financial aid" includes scholarships, grants, loans or any other monetary assistance from funds of the state or state public institutions that are used for attendance at a public institution of higher education. "Financial aid" does not include scholarships, grants, loans or other monetary assistance funded by the federal government or individuals or by entities that are not state entities for attendance at public institutions of higher education, including scholarships, grants, loans or other monetary assistance funded by the federal government or individuals or by entities that are not state entities that are administered by public institutions of higher education.

(c) No financial aid shall be awarded by the state or any of its public institutions of higher education that requires the recipient of the financial aid to be a member of a particular race, ethnicity or gender.

(d) Subsection (c) shall not apply to financial aid that is awarded on the condition that the recipient participates in intercollegiate athletics in which the members of the team are limited to either male athletes or female athletes.

(e) Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, no grant of financial aid shall be made that does not comply with this section; except that financial aid that was awarded to a recipient in the 2013-2014 academic year and that required the recipient to be a member of a particular race, ethnicity or gender may be continued in the 2014-2015 academic year and thereafter, if the recipient continues to qualify for the aid under the aid program as it existed in the 2013-2014 academic year.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-706, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

() Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, no minority teaching fellowships shall be awarded to any recipient who did not receive a fellowship in the 2013-2014 academic year.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.