

SENATE BILL 118

By Norris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 7, relative to the Tennessee
Promise scholarship.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(b)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(4) "Full-time student" means a student who is enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours, or a student who is enrolled in a full-time program at a Tennessee college of applied technology;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(b)(5), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(5) "Gift aid" means financial aid received from the federal Pell grant, the Tennessee education lottery scholarship, or the Tennessee student assistance award;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(b)(7), is amended by deleting the word "and" at the end of the subdivision.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(b), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision (8) and renumbering the remaining subdivision accordingly:

(8) "Semester" has the same meaning as defined in § 49-4-902; and

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(c), is amended by deleting the language ", as defined in § 49-4-902" from subdivisions (5) and (6).

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(c)(7), is amended by deleting the language "The sum of all approved leaves of absence shall not exceed six (6)

months;” and substituting instead the language “The sum of all approved leaves of absence shall not exceed six (6) months, except as provided for in rules promulgated by TSAC;”.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(c)(8), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(8) A student shall be eligible for the Tennessee Promise scholarship until the occurrence of the first of the following events:

(A) The student has earned a diploma or associate degree; or

(B) The student has attended an eligible postsecondary institution as a full-time student for five (5) semesters if the institution is on a semester system, or its equivalent if the institution is on a system other than a semester system.

Such semester limit shall not include an approved leave of absence;

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(c)(9), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(9)

(A) To be eligible for a Tennessee Promise scholarship, a student shall maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student in each semester while receiving the scholarship.

(B) The requirement of subdivision (c)(9)(A) that a Tennessee Promise scholarship student maintain continuous enrollment does not apply to a Tennessee Promise scholarship student who is on a medical or personal leave, as approved by the student’s eligible postsecondary institution.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(c), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivisions:

(10) Notwithstanding the requirement of subdivisions (c)(1) and (c)(9)(A) that a Tennessee Promise scholarship student maintain full-time enrollment, a student may enroll in fewer than twelve (12) semester hours if required by the academic program in which the student is enrolled.

(11) TSAC is authorized to promulgate rules to establish deadlines for applications, and appeal procedures for the denial or revocation of the scholarship, and to otherwise effectuate the purposes of this part. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(c)(4), is amended by deleting the words “rules and regulations” wherever they appear and substituting instead the word “rules”.

SECTION 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, at 12:01 a.m., the public welfare requiring it.