

SENATE BILL 271

By Berke

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-4-9__.

(a) The Tennessee Quality Teacher Fellowship (TQTF) program shall consist of the TQTF fifth year scholarship program, the TQTF college scholarship program and the TQTF innovation scholarship, each of which shall be funded from net lottery proceeds.

(b) To be eligible for the TQTF fifth year scholarship, a student shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for a scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Be enrolled at an eligible postsecondary institution in:

(A) A teacher preparation program requiring completion of a fifth year of preparation as a student teacher in a public school classroom under the guidance of a mentor teacher; or

(B) A master's degree program leading to licensure to teach in Tennessee;

(3) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the time of application for the scholarship;

(4) Agree to teach at least three (3) years in a Tennessee public school after receipt of licensure to teach and to repay all funds received under this section if such requirement is not met or if the student does not obtain a license to teach; and

(5) Make application for the scholarship.

(c) To be eligible for the TQTF college scholarship, a student shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for a scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Be an entering freshman at time of application for the scholarship;

(3) Achieve a final overall weighted high school grade point average of at least 3.25;

(4) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 25 on any single ACT test date or a comparable combined SAT score on any single SAT test date;

(5) Enroll in a teacher preparation program at an eligible postsecondary institution;

(6) Agree to student teach one (1) year in a public school classroom under the guidance of a mentor teacher;

(7) Agree to teach at least three (3) years in a Tennessee public school after receipt of licensure to teach and to repay all funds received under this section if such requirement is not met or if the student does not obtain a license to teach; and

(8) Make application for the scholarship.

(d) To be eligible for a TQTF innovation scholarship, a student shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for a scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Be enrolled full-time at an eligible postsecondary institution in a joint teacher preparation program cosponsored by the college of education of the eligible postsecondary institution, a nonprofit organization and a LEA;

(3) Agree to teach at least three (3) years in a Tennessee public school after receipt of licensure to teach and to repay all funds received under this

section if such requirement is not met or if the student does not obtain a license to teach; and

(4) Make application for the scholarship.

(e) The number of scholarships to be awarded annually in the TQTF fifth year scholarship program and the TQTF college scholarship program shall be limited to a total of no more than seven hundred fifty (750) scholarships. Such scholarships shall be in addition to any other postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for which a student is eligible and may be used for tuition, fees, books, room and board and other postsecondary expenses according to rules and regulations promulgated by TSAC; provided, that total postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds shall not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per academic year. The TQTF fifth year scholarship and the TQTF college scholarship shall be subject to the provisions of § 49-4-922.

(1) The TQTF fifth year scholarship shall be a one-year award. Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly, and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, a TQTF fifth year scholarship shall be ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the 2012-2013 academic year. For academic years subsequent to the 2012-2013 academic year, the amount of such scholarship shall be determined in accordance with § 4-51-111 and shall be set in the general appropriations act.

(2) The TQTF college scholarship may be awarded for no more than five (5) years; provided, that to continue to receive the scholarship in a subsequent academic year, a scholarship recipient shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the immediately preceding academic year.

Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly, and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, a TQTF college scholarship shall be five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the 2012-2013 academic year. For academic years subsequent to the 2012-2013 academic year, the amount of such scholarship shall be determined in accordance with § 4-51-111 and shall be set in the general appropriations act.

(f) The number of TQTF innovation scholarships to be awarded annually shall be no more than two hundred fifty (250). Priority in award of TQTF innovation scholarships shall be given to students in joint teacher preparation programs targeted at providing new teachers in high needs schools and teachers of mathematics and the sciences. The TQTF innovation scholarship may be awarded for no more than five (5) years; provided, that to continue to receive the scholarship for a subsequent academic year, a scholarship recipient shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the immediately preceding academic year. A TQTF innovation scholarship shall consist of an award from net lottery proceeds and a matching amount from the eligible postsecondary institution. Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly, and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, the share of the TQTF innovation scholarship awarded from net lottery proceeds shall be two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the 2012-2013 academic year. For academic years subsequent to the 2012-2013 academic year, the amount of such scholarship shall be determined in accordance with § 4-51-111 and shall be set in the general appropriations act. Such scholarship shall be in addition to any other postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for which a student is eligible and may be

used for tuition, fees, books, room and board and other postsecondary expenses according to rules and regulations promulgated by TSAC; provided, that total postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds shall not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per academic year. The TQTF innovation scholarship shall be subject to the provisions of § 49-4-922.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-7-1___. The Tennessee higher education commission, the University of Tennessee and the board of regents shall encourage and provide assistance to colleges of education of institutions of higher education in this state in establishing joint teacher preparation programs with nonprofit organizations and LEAs. A college of education shall be the lead proposer in establishing any such program. Such programs, if established by colleges of education of state institutions, may accept gifts, contributions or donations from individuals, local government bodies and organizations, both for-profit and nonprofit, to assist in funding the joint teacher preparation program's share of TQTF innovation scholarships.

SECTION 3. The Tennessee student assistance corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.