

SENATE BILL 774

By Ketron

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 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Full-time equivalent semester" means any semester or combination of semesters in which a student receives a full-time Tennessee HOPE scholarship award or the sum of the awards equals to a full-time award;

() "Summer school" or "summer semester" includes all terms or sessions in which classes are offered by an eligible postsecondary institution that occur between the spring semester of one academic year and the fall semester of the next academic year;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-912, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (c):

(c) The amount of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship award for part-time students shall be:

(1) One-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the award for full-time students, if the part-time student attempts six (6), seven (7) or eight (8) semester hours in a semester; or

(2) Three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) the award for full-time students, if the part-time student attempts nine (9), ten (10) or eleven (11) semester hours in a semester.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-913, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

49-4-913.

(a) Except as set forth in §§ 49-4-919, 49-4-930, 49-4-931 and 49-4-937, a student may receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship until the first of the following events:

(1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree;

(2) The student has received the scholarship award for ten (10) full-time equivalent semesters; or

(3) Five (5) years have passed from the date of the student's initial enrollment at any postsecondary institution.

(b) A student who has received the Tennessee HOPE scholarship for more than nine (9), but less than ten (10), full-time equivalent semesters and who enrolls as a full-time student in the last semester that the student is eligible to receive the scholarship award shall be considered as a part-time student for the payment of the award during such semester. The student's payment shall be calculated as the product of the scholarship award and the fraction of full-time equivalent semesters that is the difference between ten (10) and the number of full-time equivalent semesters that the student has previously received the Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-914, is amended by inserting the words "per semester" between the word "awarded" and the words "to a student" wherever such words appear.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-914(c), is amended by inserting the words "per semester" between the word "awarded" and the words "to students."

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-914, is amended by inserting the following language as a new subsection (d):

(d) A student receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, Tennessee HOPE access grant or Tennessee HOPE scholarship for nontraditional students may receive the scholarship for any semester, including summer school, in which the student is enrolled and meets all academic and nonacademic requirements for the award; provided, that the student is enrolled at least part-time.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-915, is amended by inserting the words "per semester" between the words "the ASPIRE award" and the words "for full-time students."

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(e), is amended by inserting the words "per semester" between the words "The general assembly merit scholar supplement award" and the words "for full-time students."

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-919(a), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision (2) and by redesignating the subsequent subdivision accordingly:

(2) The student has received the scholarship award for ten (10) full-time equivalent semesters; or

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(d), is amended by deleting the language:

a Tennessee HOPE access grant shall be fifty percent (50%) of the combined award of the ASPIRE award under § 49-4-915 and the Tennessee HOPE scholarship awarded under § 49-4-914

and by substituting instead the language:

a Tennessee HOPE access grant per semester shall be fifty percent (50%) of the combined award per semester of the ASPIRE award under § 49-4-915 and the Tennessee HOPE scholarship awarded under § 49-4-914

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(f), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision (2) and by redesignating the subsequent subdivision accordingly:

(2) The student has received the access grant or scholarship award for ten (10) full-time equivalent semesters; or

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931(d), is amended by deleting subdivision (2) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(2) The student has received a Tennessee HOPE scholarship or a Tennessee HOPE scholarship for nontraditional students for a total of ten (10) full-time equivalent semesters; or

SECTION 13. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to scholarships and grants awarded for the fall semester of 2011 and thereafter.