

SENATE BILL 1975

By Gardenhire

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9 and Title 49, Chapter 8, relative to the Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology Pilot Program Act.

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology Pilot Program Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 8, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Eligible high school" means a high school that has entered into a memorandum of understanding with a participating community college to provide dual credit or dual enrollment courses to students in furtherance of an associate of applied science degree in advanced integrated industrial technology while in high school;

(2) "Participating community college" means a community college that:

(A) Has an associate of applied science degree in advanced integrated industrial technology with capacity to accommodate additional students and that is participating in the pilot program;

(B) Allows a high school student to take a combination of up to sixty-one (61) hours of dual credit and dual enrollment courses during the course of the pilot program for the purpose of pursuing an associate of applied science degree in advanced industrial technology upon completion of high school; and

(C) Has been selected by the chancellor of the board of regents as a participating community college in the pilot program created by this section;

(3) "Pilot program" means the Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology Pilot Program that permits high school students to earn postsecondary credit toward an associate of applied science degree in advanced integrated industrial technology; and

(4) "Pilot program grant" means the Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology Pilot Program grant created pursuant to Section 3 of this act.

(b) The board of regents shall establish a two-year pilot program for eligible high school students enrolled in dual credit or dual enrollment courses toward receiving an associate of applied science degree in advanced integrated industrial technology at a participating community college. The chancellor of the board of regents shall provide community colleges with information on how participating community colleges are selected for the pilot program.

(c) To be eligible to participate in the pilot program, a student must:

(1) Be enrolled in an eligible high school;

(2) Not be ineligible for the pilot program grant under § 49-4-904;

(3) Be a Tennessee resident, as defined by regulations promulgated by the board of regents under § 49-8-104, and must have been a Tennessee resident for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of application or renewal for the pilot program grant;

(4) Enroll in a participating community college as a dual credit or dual enrollment student; and

(5) Make application for the pilot program grant.

(d) If a dual credit or dual enrollment student enrolls in a public institution of higher education after graduation from high school, then the institution shall not deny

credit toward an associate or baccalaureate degree for any course taken as a pilot program student if the student made a grade of "C" or higher in the course. If the course was not taken at the public institution of higher education in which the student enrolls after graduation from high school, the course shall qualify for transfer credit.

(e)

(1) The Tennessee higher education commission, in consultation with the board of regents, the department of education, and the Tennessee student assistance corporation, shall review and study the pilot program to determine whether the program helps to close the gap in students receiving high technology skills and the potential of the program to establish more postsecondary degrees in the advanced integrated industrial technology field. The study shall conclude at the end of the two-year pilot program. The higher education commission shall report the findings and conclusions of the study by January 31, 2022, to the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chair of the education committee of the senate, the chair of the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives, and the chair of the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives.

(2) If the board of regents, in consultation with the Tennessee higher education commission and the department of education, finds that the results of the two-year pilot program are promising, then the board of regents is authorized to continue the pilot program for an additional two (2) years, if funded.

(f) The board of regents, the Tennessee higher education commission, and the Tennessee student assistance corporation are authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) TSAC shall establish a two-year Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology Pilot Program grant providing financial assistance from net proceeds of the state lottery for students participating in the pilot program created pursuant to chapter 8, part 1 of this title. The pilot program grant shall provide high school students who are eligible to participate in the pilot program under subsection (c) of Section 2, tuition and mandatory fee assistance toward receiving an associate of applied science degree in advanced integrated industrial technology at a participating community college.

(b) TSAC, in consultation with the board of regents, shall create an application and selection process for students applying for the pilot program grant.

(c) A student who receives the pilot program grant pursuant to this section for one (1) academic year must reapply for the pilot program grant for the student's next academic year of attendance at the participating community college. To be eligible for the pilot program grant beyond the first academic year of receipt, the student must continue to meet all eligibility requirements for participation in the pilot program under subsection (b) of Section 2, and must achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 for all postsecondary courses attempted under this section.

(d) Pilot program grants provided by the pilot program shall be the sum of tuition and mandatory fees at the participating community college attended less all other grants or scholarships. All other grants or scholarships shall be credited first to the eligible high school student's tuition and mandatory fees.

(e) No retroactive award of assistance shall be made under this section.

(f) A student shall not receive both a pilot program grant and the middle college scholarship created pursuant to § 49-4-909.

(g) Courses attempted as a dual credit or dual enrollment student under this section shall not count toward the limitation under § 49-4-913 on the receipt of a HOPE scholarship.

(h) No more than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) shall be expended to fund the two-year pilot program grant. The pilot program grant shall be limited to the first cohort of students applying for assistance under the program for instruction beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

(i) Pilot program grants awarded pursuant to this section shall commence with the 2019-2020 school year.

(j) The Tennessee higher education commission and the Tennessee student assistance corporation are authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 4. This act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds, and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students who apply for the pilot program grant beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.