

SENATE BILL 2502

By Gresham

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 higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-202(c)(4), is amended by deleting the sentence that reads:

These outcomes shall include end of term enrollment for each term, student retention, timely progress toward degree completion and degree production and may also include, but not necessarily be limited to, student transfer activity, research and student success, as well as compliance with transfer and articulation principles in subsection (e);

and substituting instead:

The outcomes shall include end of term enrollment for each term, student retention, timely progress toward degree completion, degree production, and first year postgraduation job placement rates and may also include, but not necessarily be limited to, student transfer activity, research, and student success, as well as compliance with transfer and articulation principles in subsection (e);

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

THEC, with the assistance of the Tennessee student assistance corporation (TSAC), shall study and determine the feasibility of TSAC refusing to guarantee a student loan for a student who is majoring in a field in which the job placement rate in this state is extremely low when compared to other fields. THEC shall report its findings and conclusions to the finance, ways and means committees of the senate and house of

representatives and to the education committee of the senate and the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives by December 31, 2016.

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

(a) A student who is eligible for and receiving a scholarship or grant that is funded from the net proceeds of the state lottery under this part shall qualify for a Skills for Tomorrow supplemental award in addition to the funds received from the underlying scholarship or grant, if the student is majoring in a field in which the demand in this state for graduates is high, but there exists a shortage of qualified workers.

(b) THEC, in consultation with the board of trustees of the University of Tennessee system and the board of regents, shall publish before the beginning of the fall semester of each academic year a list of those fields that it finds to be in high demand in the state, but which have a shortage of qualified workers.

(c)

(1) A student who is majoring in a field that appears on the list under subsection (b) shall receive the Skills for Tomorrow supplemental award so long as the student continues to major in the field and to qualify for the underlying scholarship or grant. A student shall be eligible for the supplemental award beginning with the fall semester of an academic year in which the student is enrolled and majoring in a field that appears on the list under subsection (b) for that academic year. A student who receives the supplemental award, but whose major is later removed from the list under subsection (b), shall continue to receive the supplemental award so long as the student continues to major in the field for which the student received the supplemental award or changes majors as specified in subdivision (c)(3).

(2) A student who changes majors from one that is on the list under subsection (b) to a major that is not on the list shall be ineligible for the supplemental award from the time the new major is declared.

(3) A student who changes majors from one that is on the list under subsection (b) to another on the list shall continue to be eligible for the supplemental award.

(4) A student who loses the supplemental award at any time for any reason shall not be able to regain the supplemental award.

(5) A student who is not eligible for and is not receiving a scholarship or grant under this part is not eligible for the supplemental award.

(d) 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 amount of the Skills for Tomorrow supplemental award under this section shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for full-time attendance for each semester.

(e) It is the intent of the general assembly that funding for the scholarships and grants, the receipt of which is required to obtain the supplemental award under this section, take priority over the supplemental award.

SECTION 4. Section 3 of this act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students seeking postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds under title 49, chapter 4, part 9, for the 2016-2017 academic year and academic years thereafter. All remaining provisions of this act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.