

SENATE BILL 2514

By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, 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 49-4-907, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

49-4-907.

(a) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who graduated from an eligible high school upon having completed the curriculum requirements of the high school for graduation, shall:

(1) Meet the requirements of §§ 49-4-904 and 49-4-905;

(2) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after graduation from high school; and

(3)

(A)

(i) Achieve a final overall weighted high school grade point average of at least 3.0; or

(ii) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date; or

(B) Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year and for academic years thereafter:

(i) Achieve a final overall weighted high school grade point average of at least 3.0; and

(ii) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date.

(b) This subsection (b) applies to students who are entering freshmen in the 2015-2016 academic year and thereafter. A student who is eligible for the scholarship and who:

(1) Meets the requirements of subdivision (a)(3)(B) and attends an eligible four-year postsecondary institution shall receive as an entering freshman the amount of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship set under § 49-4-914(a);

(2) Meets the requirements of subdivision (a)(3)(A) and attends an eligible four-year postsecondary institution shall receive as an entering freshman the amount of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship set under § 49-4-914(b); or

(3) Meets the requirements of either subdivision (a)(3)(A) or (a)(3)(B) and attends an eligible two-year postsecondary institution shall receive as an entering freshman the amount of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship set under § 49-4-914(b), except as provided in § 49-4-914(d).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

49-4-908.

(a) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who completes high school in a Tennessee home school program, who obtains a GED or who graduates from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school shall:

(1) Meet the requirements of §§ 49-4-904 and 49-4-905;

(2) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after completing high school in a Tennessee home school program, obtaining a GED or graduating from high school; and

(3)

(A)

(i) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date, if the student completed high school in a Tennessee home school program or graduated from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school; or

(ii) Pass the GED tests with an average score of at least 525 and attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date, if the student obtained a GED; or

(B) Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year and for academic years thereafter:

(i) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 23 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 1070 on any single SAT test date, if the student completed high school in a Tennessee home school program or graduated from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school; or

(ii) Pass the GED tests with an average score of at least 525 and attain a composite ACT score of at least 23 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 1070 on any single SAT test date, if the student obtained a GED.

(b) This subsection (b) applies to students who are entering freshmen in the 2015-2016 academic year and thereafter. A student who is eligible for the scholarship and who:

(1) Meets the requirements of subdivision (a)(3)(B) and attends an eligible four-year postsecondary institution shall receive as an entering freshman the amount of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship set under § 49-4-914(a);

(2) Meets the requirements of subdivision (a)(3)(A) and attends an eligible four-year postsecondary institution shall receive as an entering freshman the amount of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship set under § 49-4-914(b); or

(3) Meets the requirements of either subdivision (a)(3)(A) or (a)(3)(B) and attends an eligible two-year postsecondary institution shall receive as an entering freshman the amount of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship set under § 49-4-914(b), except as provided in § 49-4-914(d).

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

49-4-909. Students who are entering freshmen in the 2015-2016 academic year or academic years thereafter who attend eligible four-year postsecondary institutions, but do not meet the requirements of § 49-4-907(a)(3)(B) or § 49-4-908(a)(3)(B) for the scholarship, shall be awarded the same scholarship amount under § 49-4-914(b) as Tennessee HOPE scholarship students attending eligible two-year post-secondary institutions until the student has attempted forty-eight (48) semester hours; provided, that the student maintains continuing eligibility under § 49-4-911. If the student meets the continuation requirements of § 49-4-911 when the student's continuing eligibility is checked at forty-eight (48) semester hours attempted or at any subsequent checkpoint, then the student shall be eligible for the amount of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship

under § 49-4-914(a). If the student attending an eligible four-year institution is eligible for an ASPIRE award under § 49-4-915 and is receiving the amount of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship award under § 49-4-914(b), then the student shall receive one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the award set pursuant to § 49-4-915 until such time as the student qualifies for the amount of the scholarship award under § 49-4-914(a).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-914(d), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (b), the amount of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship awarded to a student attending an eligible two-year postsecondary institution that provides on-campus housing shall be the same as the amount of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship awarded to students with comparable academic qualifications attending eligible four-year postsecondary institutions.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(e), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivision (3):

(3) A HOPE access student who is an entering freshman in the 2015-2016 academic year or in an academic year thereafter and who subsequently becomes eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall receive the amount that students who are attending the same institution, who originally qualified for the scholarship under § 49-4-907(a)(3)(A) or § 49-4-908(a)(3)(A) and who have attempted the same number of semester hours as the HOPE access student receive. If the HOPE access grant student is eligible for the ASPIRE award, the ASPIRE award amount that the student receives shall be the amount that students who attend the same institution, who originally qualified for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship under § 49-4-907(a)(3)(A) or § 49-4-908(a)(3)(A), who receive the ASPIRE award and who have attempted the same number of semester hours as the HOPE access grant student receive.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931(b), is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the subsection:

A nontraditional student attending an eligible four-year postsecondary institution shall receive the amount of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship award under § 49-4-914(a).

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-914(a), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the subsection:

However, a student who is an entering freshman in the 2015-2016 academic year or in an academic year thereafter, who is attending an eligible four-year postsecondary institution, who has attempted fewer than forty-eight (48) semester hours and who qualifies for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship under § 49-4-907(a)(3)(A) or § 49-4-908(a)(3)(A) shall receive the amount specified in the general appropriations act for students receiving Tennessee HOPE scholarships at eligible two-year postsecondary institutions pursuant to subsection (b).

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 3, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-4-3___. The general assembly finds and recommends that for ten (10) consecutive years, beginning with the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) be allocated and appropriated in the general appropriations act from net lottery proceeds to the Tennessee student assistance corporation to fund additional Tennessee student assistance awards under this part to enable needy Tennesseans to pursue higher education.

SECTION 9. The provisions of 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 such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.