

SENATE BILL 2595

By Norris

AN ACT to amend Chapter 363 of the Public Acts of 2015,
relative to the Community College Reconnect
Grant.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 363 of the Public Acts of 2015, is amended by deleting Section 1(b) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(b) To be eligible for a Community College Reconnect Grant, a student shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for the grant under § 49-4-904;

(2) Have been a Tennessee resident, as defined by regulations promulgated by the board of regents under § 49-8-104, for one (1) year immediately preceding the date of application for the grant;

(3) Not have been enrolled in or attended any postsecondary institution for at least twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date of initial enrollment in the Community College Reconnect Grant program;

(4) Have earned a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours toward completion of an associate degree as determined by the postsecondary institution attended;

(5) File the FAFSA prior to the beginning of each academic term as determined by TSAC;

(6) Be an independent student as determined by the FAFSA;

(7) Apply for the grant by filing a Community College Reconnect Grant application as required by TSAC; and

(8) Be admitted to and enrolled in a public two-year postsecondary institution.

SECTION 2. Chapter 363 of the Public Acts of 2015, is further amended by deleting in Section 1(d)(1), the language “of applied science”.

SECTION 3. Chapter 363 of the Public Acts of 2015, is further amended by deleting in Section 1(f)(1)(A), the language “of applied science”.

SECTION 4. Chapter 363 of the Public Acts of 2015, is further amended by deleting Section 1(j) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(1) Notwithstanding § 49-4-903(a), TSAC shall distribute funds appropriated for the Community College Reconnect Grants to public two-year postsecondary institutions based on each institution’s percentage of the total nontraditional students enrolled at all public two-year postsecondary institutions; provided, however, that no more than a total of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) of net lottery proceeds shall be expended for community college reconnect grants during the life of the program, should such amount be available as determined by the general assembly.

(2) Public two-year postsecondary institutions shall award Community College Reconnect Grants to eligible students enrolled in each respective institution on a first-come, first-served basis according to rules promulgated by TSAC.

SECTION 5. Chapter 363 of the Public Acts of 2015, is further amended by deleting Section 1(k) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

Funds appropriated for Community College Reconnect Grants during the 2016-2017 academic year shall be carried forward to subsequent fiscal years for future Community College Reconnect Grants until all such funds are expended.

SECTION 6. Chapter 363 of the Public Acts of 2015, is further amended by deleting in Section 1(l), the language “of applied science”.

SECTION 7. Chapter 363 of the Public Acts of 2015, is further amended by deleting the last sentence in Section 4 and substituting instead the following:

For all other purposes, this act shall take effect March 15, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.

SECTION 8. Section 7 of this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. All other sections of this act shall take effect March 15, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.