



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 695

HOUSE BILL NO. 1969

By Representative Rudd

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1840

By Senator Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-301(a)(1)(B)(iv), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(iv) Are enrolled in a private business, trade, or technical school that is located in this state, accredited by a regional accrediting association, the Council on Occupational Education, or the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and authorized to operate by the Tennessee higher education commission pursuant to the Tennessee Higher Education Authorization Act of 2016, compiled in chapter 7, part 20 of this title. A school that, on July 1, 2016, was accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools and whose students received an award under this part shall remain eligible for the Tennessee student assistance award; provided, that the school receives accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States department of education, remains accredited by such an accrediting agency, and is authorized to operate by the Tennessee higher education commission. No award under this part shall be made retroactively for any period in which a postsecondary institution has not attained accreditation from an accrediting agency recognized by the United States department of education. If a school is organized as a profit-making entity, it shall comply with the terms and conditions that the TSAC board of directors determines to be necessary to ensure that the availability of assistance under this program to students has not and will not cause an increase in tuition, fees, or other charges assessed by the school;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902(28), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(28) "Nontraditional student" means a student who:

(A)

(i) Is at least twenty-five (25) years of age; and

(ii) Enrolls in an eligible postsecondary institution prior to August 1, 2018:

(a) As an entering freshman; or

(b) At least two (2) years after last attending any postsecondary institution;

(B)

(i) Is at least twenty-five (25) years of age; and

(ii) Enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible four-year postsecondary institution on or after August 1, 2018:

(a) As an entering freshman; or

(b) At least two (2) years after last attending any postsecondary institution; or

(C) Enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible four-year postsecondary institution on or after August 1, 2018, while maintaining continuous enrollment following completion of an associate degree under the Tennessee reconnect grant, established under § 49-4-944;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-914(e), is amended by deleting the language "subsection (c)" and substituting instead the language "subsection (a)".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-914, is amended by inserting the following language as a new subsection (f) and renumbering the remaining subsection accordingly:

(f) 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 a Tennessee HOPE scholarship for a nontraditional student enrolled full time in an associate degree program shall be one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per semester at a two-year postsecondary institution and one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) per semester at a four-year postsecondary institution. These amounts shall apply to students who received a HOPE scholarship for nontraditional students beginning in the fall term of 2015 and prior to the fall term of 2018, and shall continue until reaching a terminating event described in § 49-4-931.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931(a)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(4)

(A) Have attempted at least twelve (12) semester hours and received a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as a nontraditional student while enrolled in an associate degree program at an eligible postsecondary institution prior to August 1, 2018; or

(B) Enroll in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible four-year postsecondary institution and attempt at least twelve (12) semester hours;

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-944(f)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(1) A student may receive a Tennessee reconnect grant under this section until the occurrence of the first of the following events:

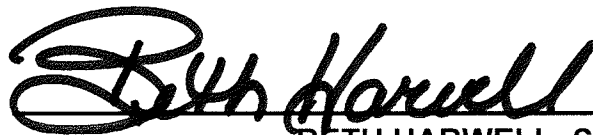
(A) The student has attained a degree or certificate in an eligible program of study; or

(B) Five (5) years have passed since the date of initial enrollment as a Tennessee reconnect grant student, exclusive of any approved leaves of absence.

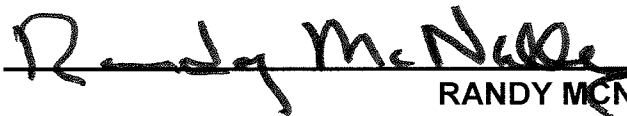
SECTION 7. This act shall take effect August 1, 2018, at 12:01 a.m., the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1969

PASSED: March 22, 2018

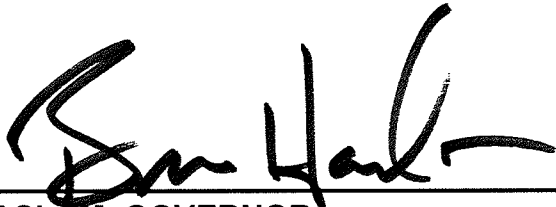


BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 9th day of April 2018



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR