

SENATE BILL 710

By Overbey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, 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 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Full-time equivalent semester" means any semester in which a student is enrolled full-time and receives a Tennessee HOPE scholarship. A semester in which a part-time student attempts six (6), seven (7) or eight (8) semester hours and receives a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be counted as one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of a "full-time equivalent semester". A semester in which a part-time student attempts nine (9), ten (10) or eleven (11) semester hours and receives a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be counted as three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of a "full-time equivalent semester";

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-913, is amended by deleting the language "in the fall semester of 2009 or thereafter" wherever it appears and by substituting instead "in the fall semester of 2009 or in any semester before the fall semester 2013".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-913(d), is amended by deleting the language "beginning with the fall semester of 2009 or thereafter" and by substituting instead "in the fall semester of 2009 or in any semester before the fall semester 2013".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-913, is amended by adding the following language as new subsections (f) and (g):

(f) Notwithstanding subsection (a), except as set forth in § 49-4-920, a student who first receives a Tennessee HOPE scholarship in the fall semester 2013 or thereafter, may receive the scholarship until the first of the following events:

- (1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree; or
- (2) The student has received the Tennessee HOPE scholarship for:
 - (A) Eight (8) full-time equivalent semesters; or
 - (B) Nine (9) full-time equivalent semesters, if the student is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours in length.

(g) The eight (8) full-time equivalent semesters or nine (9) full-time equivalent semesters limitation, if the student is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours in length, for a student who first receives a Tennessee HOPE scholarship for nontraditional students pursuant to § 49-4-931 in the fall semester 2013 or thereafter shall be based on the total full-time equivalent semesters attended while receiving the Tennessee HOPE scholarship or the Tennessee HOPE scholarship for nontraditional students.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-919, is amended by adding the following language as new subsection (b) and by redesignating the subsequent subsections accordingly:

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a student first receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship in the fall semester 2013 or thereafter, shall be eligible for the scholarship until the first of the following events:

- (1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree; or
- (2) The number of full-time equivalent semesters that the student has received a Tennessee HOPE scholarship meets the limitation of § 49-4-913(f)(2), as applicable to the student.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(g), is amended by deleting the language "in the fall semester of 2009 or thereafter" and by substituting instead the language "in the fall semester of 2009 or in any semester before the fall semester 2013".

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920, is amended by adding the following language as new subsection (h):

(h) Notwithstanding subsection (f), a student who first receives the Tennessee HOPE scholarship after having received a Tennessee HOPE access grant, in the fall semester of 2013 or thereafter, may receive the scholarship until the first of the following events occurs:

(1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree;

(2)

(A) The student has received the Tennessee HOPE access grant or the Tennessee HOPE scholarship for eight (8) full-time equivalent semesters; or

(B) If the student is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours in length, the student has received the Tennessee HOPE access grant or the Tennessee HOPE scholarship for nine (9) full-time equivalent semesters; or

(3) Five (5) years have passed from the date of the student's initial enrollment at any postsecondary institution.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (e) and by redesignating the subsequent subsections accordingly:

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (d), a student who first receives a Tennessee HOPE for nontraditional students in fall semester 2013 or thereafter may receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship for nontraditional students under this section until the first of the following events:

(1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree;

(2)

(A) The sum of the number of full-time equivalent semesters that a nontraditional student has received either the Tennessee HOPE scholarship or the Tennessee HOPE scholarship for nontraditional students is eight (8); or

(B) The sum of the number of full-time equivalent semesters that a nontraditional student has received either the Tennessee HOPE scholarship or the Tennessee HOPE scholarship for nontraditional students is nine (9), if the nontraditional student is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours in length; or

(3) Five (5) years have passed since the student enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution as a nontraditional student.

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

49-4-9___. TSAC shall devise a process whereby students who first received the Tennessee HOPE scholarship in fall semester 2009 or any semester before fall semester 2013, may apply to have the receipt of the HOPE scholarship governed by §§ 49-4-913(f) or (g), 49-4-920(h) or 49-4-931(e), as applicable to the student. This process shall only apply to a student who:

(1) Has reached the applicable limitation in §§ 49-4-913(b), (c) or (d) or 49-4-920(g), on the number of semester hours in which the student may receive the scholarship;

(2) Has not received a baccalaureate degree;

(3)

(A) Enrolled at a postsecondary institution for the first time less than five (5) years before the date of the application under this section; or

(B) Enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution as a nontraditional student less than five (5) years before the date of the application under this section;

(4)

(A) Has not been enrolled for eight (8) full-time equivalent semesters; or

(B) Has not been enrolled for nine (9) full-time equivalent semesters, if the student is enrolled in a program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours in length, while receiving a HOPE scholarship; and

(5) Is eligible for a HOPE scholarship, except for reaching the applicable limitation on the number of semester hours attempted, at the time the student applies under the process devised by TSAC to have the receipt of the HOPE scholarship governed by §§ 49-4-913(f) or (g), 49-4-920(h) or 49-4-931(e).

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