

HOUSE BILL 426

By Pitts

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, relative to financial aid for dependents  
of disabled military veterans.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by  
adding the following language as a new section:

**49-4-942.**

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Dependent" means:

(A) A natural or adopted child of a member of the armed services;

and

(B) A spouse of a member of the armed services;

(2) "Disabled veteran" means:

(A) For the purposes of subdivision (a)(1)(A), a former member of  
the armed services who has a service-connected disability that is  
determined by the United States department of veterans affairs to  
constitute a twenty percent (20%) or greater disability; and

(B) For the purposes of subdivision (a)(1)(B), a former member of  
the armed services who has a service-connected disability that is  
determined by the United States department of veterans affairs to  
constitute a one hundred percent (100%) permanent total disability;

(3) "Member of the armed services" means a citizen of this state who is a  
member of the armed forces of the United States or a member of a reserve or  
Tennessee national guard unit who is called into active military service of the

United States, as defined in § 58-1-102, and is stationed outside the United States during hostilities in which military personnel are entitled to combat compensation as determined by the United States department of defense; and

(4) "Serving honorably" means the character of service condition as reported on certificate of release or discharge from active duty (department of defense form 214).

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, a student who is a dependent of a member of the armed services who, while serving honorably, becomes a disabled veteran shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship if the student meets the requirements of §§ 49-4-904(1)-(6) and 49-4-905(a)(1)-(3).

(c) A student claiming eligibility under this section shall present verification documentation as required by TSAC.

(d)

(1) A student receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this section shall meet the requirements of § 49-4-911 to continue to receive the scholarship.

(2)

(A) A student who qualifies for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this section as a dependent child shall apply for a scholarship and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution prior to the student's twenty-seventh birthday.

(B) A student who qualifies for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this section as a dependent spouse shall apply for a scholarship and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution within ten (10) years of the date of the member of the armed services' determination of disability.

(e)

(1) Scholarships awarded under this section shall be in addition to any other financial aid for which the recipient student qualifies; provided, that no

student may be awarded multiple scholarships pursuant to this part in any single academic year.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, scholarships awarded under this section may be used for the cost of room and board not to exceed the average cost of room and board at an eligible four-year public postsecondary institution.

(f) Scholarships awarded under this section shall commence with the 2013-2014 academic year.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.