

HOUSE BILL 835

By Moore

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for firefighters.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by deleting subdivision (43) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(43) "Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant" means either a grant for study in pursuit of a certificate or diploma at a Tennessee technology center operated by the board of regents of the state university and community college system that is funded from net proceeds of the state lottery and awarded under this part or a grant for study at the Tennessee fire service and codes enforcement academy established pursuant to § 68-102-201 that is funded from net proceeds of the state lottery and awarded under this part.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-921, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Section 49-4-921.

(a)

(1) To be eligible for a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (a), a student seeking a diploma or certificate at a Tennessee technology center operated by the board of regents of the state university and community college system shall:

(A) Not be ineligible under § 49-4-904;

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

(C) Be admitted to the institution in a program of study leading to a certificate or diploma; and

(D) Have not, at any time, been the recipient of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

(2) No minimum number of hours of enrollment is required for eligibility for a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (a), but a student receiving a grant shall maintain satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the institution at which the student is enrolled to continue the grant. If a student fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress, then the student shall lose the Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (a). Once a student loses a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant, no additional award under this subsection (a) shall be made.

(3) A student who has been awarded a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (a) shall maintain continuous enrollment at the institution in accordance with the institution's requirements.

(4) Until receipt of the certificate or diploma, a student shall reapply each academic year for the Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (a).

(5) An eligible student may receive a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (a) for all course work required by the institution for a program of study leading to a certificate or diploma. Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grants under this subsection (a) may not be used for continuing education courses.

(6) The amount of a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant award under this subsection (a) shall be determined in accordance with § 4-51-111 and shall be set in the general appropriations act.

(7) No student shall be eligible for more than one (1) Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (a).

(b)

(1) To be eligible for a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (b), a student seeking instruction at the Tennessee fire service and codes enforcement academy operated by the department of commerce and insurance shall:

(A) Not be ineligible under § 49-4-904;

(B) Be admitted to the Tennessee fire service and codes enforcement academy for a training course or program of study;

(C) Have not, at any time, been the recipient of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship; and

(D) Be a firefighter, as defined by § 7-51-206(a) or § 4-24-201.

(2) No minimum number of hours of instruction is required for eligibility for a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (b), but a student receiving a grant shall maintain satisfactory progress at the academy. If a student fails to maintain satisfactory progress, then the student shall lose the Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (b). Once a student loses a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant, no additional award under this subsection (b) shall be made.

(3) A student may reapply each year for the Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under this subsection (b).

(4) 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, a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant awarded under this subsection (b) shall be limited to five hundred dollars (\$500) per year, per qualifying student.

(5) Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grants awarded pursuant to this subsection (b) shall commence with the 2010 calendar year.

(6) No retroactive award of Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant shall be made pursuant to this subsection (b)

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.