

HOUSE BILL 1343

By Matlock

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to eligibility of home school students for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who completes high school in a Tennessee home school program shall:

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

(2) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after completing high school in a Tennessee home school program; and

(3)

(A) Achieve a final overall weighted high school grade point average of at least 3.0; or

(B) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date.

(b) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who obtains a GED shall:

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

(2) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after obtaining a GED; and

(3)

(A) Pass the GED tests with an average score of at least 525; and

(B) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date.

(c) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who graduates from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school shall:

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

(2) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after graduating from high school; and

(3) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-926(a), is amended by deleting the last sentence of the subsection and by substituting instead the following:

If the student graduated from a high school outside of this state that does not meet the requirements of this section to be considered an eligible high school, completed high school in a home school program or obtained a GED, then, to be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, the student shall meet the eligibility requirements of § 49-4-908 that correspond to the method by which the student completed high school.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-934(a)(2), is amended by deleting the language "49-4-908(2)(A)", and by substituting instead "49-4-908 applicable to home school students".

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students seeking postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for the 2011-2012 academic year and academic years thereafter.