

HOUSE BILL 1681

By Cepicky

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, relative to financial aid.

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 as a new section:

(a) Notwithstanding § 49-4-902, as used in this section:

(1) "Certificate" means an institutionally awarded credential, the receipt of which indicates satisfactory completion of an eligible program of study;

(2) "Eligible postsecondary institution" mean a community college or Tennessee college of applied technology operated by the board of regents of the state university and community college system;

(3) "Eligible program of study" means a non-credit, non-academic workforce training program operated by an eligible postsecondary institution with defined curriculum, objectives, and exit skill requirements that leads to an industry certification or an industry-validated certification, including a pre-apprentice lineworker academy program; and

(4) "Gift aid" means any federal financial assistance received by a student for tuition and mandatory fees for an eligible program of study during the semester or educational term.

(b) The Tennessee board of regents (TBR) shall develop and administer a two-year pilot program to award grants to students enrolled in an eligible program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution. TBR shall develop an application process for students to apply for a grant under this section. If a student meets each of the

qualifications described in subsection (c), then TBR shall award the student a grant in accordance with this section.

(c) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a student must:

(1) Apply for a grant in accordance with an application process developed by TBR;

(2) Be admitted to an eligible program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution;

(3) Meet the requirements of § 49-4-904;

(4) Not have previously completed an eligible program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution; and

(5) Not have previously received a grant under this section.

(d) The pilot program must begin, and grants must be awarded in accordance with this section, in the 2022-2023 academic year.

(e) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly, the amount of a grant awarded under this section shall not exceed the cost of tuition and mandatory fees charged to students for an eligible program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution less any gift aid, which must be credited first to tuition and mandatory fees, unless federal law or regulation requires otherwise, in which case federal priority controls.

(f) Throughout the pilot program, TBR shall collect and analyze:

(1) The number of students who:

(A) Applied for a grant under this section;

(B) Received a grant under this section;

(C) Completed an eligible program of study after receiving a grant under this section; and

(D) Failed to complete the student's eligible program of study after receiving a grant under this section;

(2) The average amount of a grant awarded under this section; and

(3) Information that may assist the general assembly in evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program.

(g) TBR shall submit a report on the outcomes of the pilot program to the education committee of the senate and to the education administration and education instruction committees of the house of representatives no later than June 30, 2024.

(h) This section is repealed on July 1, 2024.

SECTION 2. The Tennessee board of regents is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act is not an appropriation of funds, and funds shall not be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.