

HOUSE BILL 2029

By Maddox

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5 and Title 49, relative to financial assistance for postsecondary students.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 5-9-101, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

( ) For programs of postsecondary financial assistance to enable county residents to attend postsecondary institutions.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designate section.

§ 5-1-1\_\_\_. Counties may establish programs that assist county residents in paying for postsecondary education. Specifically, counties may establish programs that assist county residents in accessing all financial aid and scholarships available from public and private sources and that then provide last-dollar scholarships to enable students to attend community colleges without incurring debt. Counties may also cooperate with private entities in establishing such programs.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 8, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-8-2\_\_\_. The board of regents shall assist and facilitate as appropriate the development by a county of a program that permits residents of the county to attend community colleges in the board of regents system at no tuition cost to the student.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-7-1\_\_\_. The Tennessee higher education commission and the Tennessee student assistance corporation shall assist and facilitate as appropriate within the scope of their duties the development by a county of a program of postsecondary financial assistance for county residents. The board of regents and the University of Tennessee system shall assist in and facilitate such endeavors as appropriate.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.