



# *State of Tennessee*

## **PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1107**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2019**

**By Lundberg**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2094

By White, Cepicky, Ragan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-203(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(A) Administer the provisions under law of state awards of financial assistance programs to students who are residents of this state under the terms and conditions prescribed in this part and in parts 3 and 6-9 of this chapter;

(B) Review and evaluate the administration of each financial assistance program at participating postsecondary institutions to ensure the programs are administered pursuant to applicable laws, rules, and regulations;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-203(5)(A), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

Administer the Tennessee academic scholars program for students enrolled in an eligible program of study, as defined in § 49-4-902, and in accordance with guidelines approved by the Tennessee student assistance corporation;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-210, is amended by deleting the section.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-702(a)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(2) Students who teach full-time in a nursing school in this state who have been approved by the state board of nursing, must receive forgiveness of the loan balance based on one (1) year's teaching service for each year the scholarship was awarded, or proportionate credit for part-time teaching service, as defined by rules; and

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-704(b), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

( ) "Eligible program of study" means, beginning with the fall semester of the 2022-2023 academic year:

(A) A curriculum of courses leading to a certificate or diploma at a Tennessee college of applied technology; or

(B) A federal Title IV-eligible curriculum of courses leading to a certificate, diploma, or an associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution;

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-704(b), is amended by deleting subdivision (3) and substituting instead the following:

( ) "Eligible postsecondary institution" or "institution" has the same meaning as defined in § 49-4-902;

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-704, is amended by deleting "eligible educational institution" in subsection (g) and substituting "eligible postsecondary institution" and by deleting "educational institution" in subsections (f) and (h) and substituting "eligible postsecondary institution".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-704(e), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

To the extent funds are available, the corporation shall award a scholarship to an eligible applicant for full-time postsecondary undergraduate or vocational study in an eligible program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution. If funds are insufficient to provide scholarships to all eligible applicants, then awards must be based on the financial need of the student as determined by guidelines established by the corporation. Except as provided by other scholarship or educational aid programs, the scholarship award must include tuition and other required fees and allowances for books, supplies, and room and board.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-706(a)(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(3) Recipients must maintain continuous enrollment in an eligible program of study, as defined in § 49-4-902, leading to licensure as a teacher in a higher education institution within this state with an educator preparation program approved by the state board of education.

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(b)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(2) "Eligible high school":

(A) Has the same meaning as defined in § 49-4-902; and

(B) Includes a high school located in a neighboring state in a county contiguous to this state;

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(b)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(4) "Eligible program of study":

(A) Means, beginning with the fall semester of the 2021-2022 academic year:

(i) A curriculum of courses leading to a certificate or diploma at a Tennessee college of applied technology; or

(ii) A federal Title IV-eligible curriculum of courses leading to a certificate, diploma, or associate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution; and

(B) Does not include courses taken at a four-year postsecondary institution prior to a student's admission in, or that were taken by a student to fulfill prerequisite requirements for, a curriculum of courses described in subdivision (b)(4)(A)(i) or (ii);

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(2) "Academic year" means three (3) consecutive semesters beginning with a fall semester and including the spring and summer semesters immediately succeeding the fall semester.

SECTION 13. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902(6), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(6) "Certificate" or "diploma" means a credential, other than a degree, the receipt of which indicates satisfactory completion of training in an eligible program of study offered by an eligible postsecondary institution;

SECTION 14. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902(13), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(13) "Eligible program of study" means, beginning with the fall semester of the 2021-2022 academic year:

(A) A curriculum of courses leading to a certificate or diploma at a Tennessee college of applied technology; or

(B) A federal Title IV-eligible curriculum of courses leading to a certificate, diploma, or an associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution;

SECTION 15. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908, is amended by deleting subsections (b) and (c).

SECTION 16. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-921(a)(2), is amended by deleting the language "a program" and substituting instead the language "an eligible program".

SECTION 17. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-921(e), is amended by deleting the language "a program" and substituting instead the language "an eligible program".

SECTION 18. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-933(a)(5), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(5) Be admitted to, and enroll in, an eligible program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution as a part-time or full-time student.

SECTION 19. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-938(c)(5), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(5) Be admitted to, and enroll in, an eligible program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree;

SECTION 20. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-944, is amended by deleting subdivision (d)(6).

SECTION 21. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-944, is amended by deleting subsection (f) and substituting instead the following:

(f)(1) If a student is awarded a Tennessee reconnect grant, then the student may continue to receive a Tennessee reconnect grant under this section until the occurrence of the first of the following events:

(A) The student has attained a degree or certificate in an eligible program of study; or

(B) Five (5) years have passed since the date of the student's enrollment in a term in which the student receives the student's first Tennessee reconnect grant, excluding any approved leave of absence.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (f)(1)(A), a student may continue to receive a Tennessee reconnect grant for an associate degree after the student completes a certificate that directly leads to the associate degree program.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (e), a student who has an approved medical or personal leave of absence from the student's eligible postsecondary institution may continue to receive the grant upon resuming the eligible program of study at the eligible postsecondary institution so long as the student continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements.

SECTION 22. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-944, is amended by deleting subsection (j).

SECTION 23. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 2019

PASSED: April 27, 2022

  
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RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 2022

  
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BILL LEE, GOVERNOR