

HOUSE BILL 2109

By Brooks H

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to dual enrollment  
grants.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-930, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection:

(h)

(1) A four-year dual enrollment pilot program shall be established to determine whether increasing the amount of the dual enrollment grant to cover more fully the cost of a dual enrollment course increases participation in the program and success in postsecondary education. The pilot program shall begin with the 2014-2015 academic year and conclude with the 2017-2018 academic year.

(2) During the four (4) years the dual enrollment pilot program is operating, the cost of a course taken through the dual enrollment program shall be fixed at the cost charged for the course during the 2014-2015 academic year. If a new course, that was not offered during the 2014-2015 academic year, is made available to dual enrollment students in any subsequent year of the pilot program, then the cost of the course to dual enrollment students during the pilot program shall be set at the cost of a similar or comparable course offered during the 2014-2015 academic year.

(3) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial

assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, the amount of a Tennessee HOPE dual enrollment awarded to a student in the 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years shall be five hundred dollars (\$500).

(4) At the end of the 2016-2017 academic year, THEC shall examine the pilot program and report its findings and conclusions concerning the success of the pilot program and any recommendations concerning continuation of the pilot program to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate, by December 1, 2017. THEC shall specifically investigate and report on whether:

(A) Increasing the amount of the award increases participation in the dual enrollment grant program;

(B) Students who participate in the dual enrollment grant program and who receive HOPE scholarships upon entering an eligible postsecondary institution are more likely to retain the HOPE scholarship at each point at which eligibility for the scholarship is checked than students who receive HOPE scholarships, but did not take dual enrollment courses; and

(C) Students who participate in the dual enrollment grant program and who, after graduating from high school, enroll at eligible two-year postsecondary institutions or at eligible four-year postsecondary institutions awarding associate degrees are more likely to obtain an associate degree within two (2) years of graduation than other students.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.