

HOUSE BILL 2342

By Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

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 language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-4-9__.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, if a student as an entering freshman meets all applicable nonacademic requirements for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, but fails to meet the academic requirements of § 49-4-907(3) or § 49-4-908(2) that are applicable to the student, and if such student is admitted to and enrolls in an eligible postsecondary institution within sixteen (16) months after completing high school or obtaining a GED and such student at the end of a semester when continuing eligibility for a HOPE scholarship is reviewed meets the continuing eligibility requirements of § 49-4-911(a)(1) or § 49-4-911(a)(2), as applicable to the semester at which the review is done, then the student shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

(b) Subsection (a) shall also apply to students who qualify for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under § 49-4-929, if the transfer student met all nonacademic requirements under § 49-4-929 for the scholarship, but did not meet the applicable academic requirements. Such student may qualify for the scholarship either at the time of transfer to an eligible postsecondary institution or after transfer to an eligible postsecondary institution.

(c) No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be made under this section for attendance at a postsecondary institution in order to qualify for the scholarship. Scholarships awarded under this section are subject to the limitations of § 49-4-913(a).

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students seeking postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for the 2009-2010 academic year and academic years thereafter.