

SENATE BILL 1741

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to completion grants for Tennessee
Promise scholarship students.

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

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

(a) As used in this section "eligible postsecondary institution" and "Tennessee Promise scholarship student" have the same meanings as defined in § 49-4-708.

(b) The Tennessee student assistance corporation shall establish a four-year pilot program to award completion grants to Tennessee Promise scholarship students who have an immediate financial need or who are experiencing a financial hardship that may prevent the student from completing a postsecondary degree or credential.

(c) The pilot program will begin with the 2020-2021 academic year.

(d) The corporation is authorized and empowered to contract with one (1) or more entities to administer some or all portions of the pilot program. The corporation is encouraged to contract with organizations that are partnering with this state to support this state's initiative to increase the number of Tennesseans with a postsecondary degree or credential to fifty-five percent (55%) by the year 2025, and that exists to increase higher education opportunities for Tennessee Promise scholarship students.

(e) Throughout the pilot program, the corporation shall collect and analyze:

(1) The number and percentage of Tennessee Promise scholarship students who:

(A) Applied for a completion grant, disaggregated by each eligible postsecondary institution;

(B) Received a completion grant, disaggregated by each eligible postsecondary institution;

(C) Remained enrolled and made progress toward a postsecondary degree or credential after receiving a completion grant, disaggregated by each eligible postsecondary institution;

(D) Withdrew from the eligible postsecondary institution or stopped making progress toward a postsecondary degree or credential after receiving a completion grant, disaggregated by each eligible postsecondary institution; and

(E) Completed a postsecondary degree or credential after receiving a completion grant, disaggregated by each eligible postsecondary institution;

(2)

(A) The total amount of completion grants awarded, disaggregated by academic year and by each eligible postsecondary institution; and

(B) The average amount of completion grants awarded;

(3) The financial needs or hardships reported by Tennessee Promise scholarship students who applied for, but did not receive, a completion grant;

(4) The financial needs or hardships reported by Tennessee Promise scholarship students who applied for and received a completion grant; and

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

(f) The corporation shall submit an annual report on the outcomes of the pilot program to the education committee of the senate and to the education committee of the

house of representatives no later than December 31, 2021, for the first year of the pilot program, and no later than December 31 of each remaining year.

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