

SENATE BILL 2721

By White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8,
Chapter 50, Part 1 and Title 49, relative to higher
education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 50, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a) A full-time public school teacher is eligible for enrollment in one (1) course at any state-supported college or university, college of applied technology, or the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute without paying tuition charges, maintenance fees, student activity fees, registration fees, or online course fees for a course taken through the regents online degree programs. A course for which the waiver is granted consists of no more than four (4) credit hours or one hundred twenty (120) clock hours. The availability of waivers of online course fees for a course taken through the regents online degree programs is limited each year by the amount of funds specifically appropriated for such online course fee waivers in the general appropriations act. A teacher may only receive a waiver pursuant to this section once.

(b) Enrollment privileges may be limited or denied by the college, university, college of applied technology, or Tennessee Foreign Language Institute on an individual basis according to space availability. Enrollment under this section is on a first-come, first-served basis. A tuition-paying student shall not be denied enrollment in a course because of a teacher's enrollment pursuant to this section.

(c) A course taken under this section is governed by the academic rules and regulations of the institution or school offering the course.

(d) The Tennessee higher education commission may promulgate rules as are necessary to implement this section, including rules for the allocation of appropriations specifically appropriated for the implementation of this section.

(e)

(1) The number of students permitted to attend classes beyond the limits established in this section or in the general appropriations act for any fiscal year must be discounted from the effects of the higher education funding formula by the Tennessee higher education commission.

(2) Any reimbursement to the state-supported colleges, universities, or area vocational-technical schools for the enrollments provided by this section is limited to those funds specifically appropriated for that purpose in the general appropriations act. Such reimbursement is limited to assessed charges and fees of enrollment.

(3) Any reimbursement to the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute for enrollments provided by this section is limited to those funds specifically appropriated for the fee waiver and fee discount programs authorized by this section and §§ 8-50-114, 8-50-115, and 49-7-119.

(f) A teacher may apply the cost equivalent of the full waiver credit toward payment for a class exceeding four (4) credit hours or one hundred twenty (120) clock hours.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.