

SENATE BILL 2896

By Kyle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, relative to financial aid.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-704(a), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting the following:

(a) This section is known and may be cited as the "Surviving Spouses and Dependent Children Scholarship Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-704(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "firefighter or emergency medical service technician" and substituting "firefighter, emergency medical service technician, or member of the armed services".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-704(b)(7), is amended by deleting the language "firefighter, or emergency medical service technician" and substituting "firefighter, emergency medical service technician, or member of the armed services".

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

() "Member of the armed services" has the same meaning as defined in § 49-4-928;

() "Surviving spouse" means an individual who was married to a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or emergency medical service technician at the time of the law enforcement officer's, firefighter's, emergency medical service technician's, or member of the armed services' death;

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-704, is amended by deleting subsections (c) and (d) and substituting the following:

(c)

(1)

(A) A resident of this state who is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical service technician, or member of the armed services who has been killed or totally and permanently disabled while performing duties within the scope of such employment may receive a scholarship provided by this section, except to the extent the dependent child receives educational benefits or scholarship aid from other sources.

(B) A resident of this state who is a surviving spouse of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical service technician, or member of the armed services who has been killed while performing duties within the scope of such employment may receive a scholarship provided by this section, except to the extent the surviving spouse receives educational benefits or scholarship aid from other sources.

(2) The corporation shall require a dependent child or surviving spouse to also apply to other government programs of student grant assistance for which, in the judgment of the corporation, the dependent child or surviving spouse is eligible.

(d) Every dependent child and surviving spouse desiring a scholarship under this section must apply to the corporation. The application must be accompanied by evidence satisfactory to the corporation that the law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical service technician, or member of the armed services was killed or

totally and permanently disabled, as applicable, while performing duties within the scope of such employment. The application must also be accompanied by the certification of the financial aid officer of the institution the dependent child or surviving spouse plans to attend, stating that the dependent child or surviving spouse has been accepted for admission and setting forth the costs of attending the institution and the amount of financial assistance to be provided from other sources.

SECTION 6. This act is not an appropriation of funds, and funds must not be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 7. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2022-2023 school year and subsequent school years.