

HOUSE BILL 2841

By DuBois

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, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

( ) "Firefighter" means a person employed by a political subdivision of the state who is a member of the fire department of such political subdivision, and is trained in firefighting and actively engaged in such work or subject to call for such services; providing, that such person's primary livelihood is derived from such work;

( ) "Law enforcement officer" means the sheriff, sheriff's deputies, or any police officer employed by a political subdivision of the state whose primary responsibility is the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension of offenders;

SECTION 2. 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) To be eligible for a Tennessee local firefighters and law enforcement officers grant, a student shall:

- (1) Be a firefighter or law enforcement officer;
- (2) Be a Tennessee citizen and resident while employed as a firefighter or law enforcement officer and at the time of application for the grant;
- (3) Not be ineligible for the grant under § 49-4-904;
- (4) Not have a baccalaureate degree;
- (5) Make application for the grant; and

(6) Enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree.

(b) A firefighter or law enforcement officer shall be eligible for a grant for one (1) academic year for each two (2) years of full-time active service that such student has completed as a firefighter or law enforcement officer respectively. A firefighter or law enforcement officer shall be eligible for no more than four (4) one-year grants.

(c) Students receiving a Tennessee local firefighters and law enforcement officers grant may attend an eligible postsecondary institution either full-time or part-time. TSAC shall award the grant on a pro-rata basis for part-time attendance.

(d) Students receiving a Tennessee local firefighters and law enforcement officers grant shall also be awarded any other postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for which they are eligible.

(e) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, a Tennessee local firefighters and law enforcement officers grant for full-time attendance shall be one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the amount of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship awarded to a full-time student at the eligible postsecondary institution attended by the firefighter or law enforcement officer.

SECTION 3. TSAC is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 4. 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 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students seeking postsecondary financial assistance in the 2008-2009 academic year and academic years thereafter.