

HOUSE BILL 3517

By DeBerry J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to secondary education.

WHEREAS, Scholarships for Technical and Educational Programs (STEP) is an innovative post-secondary education initiative of Memphis and Shelby County, brought to fruition by the leadership of Mayor A. C. Wharton, Jr. and the generous contributions of the Community Foundation of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Memphis City Schools (MCS) Prep Academies offers their eleventh (11th) and twelfth (12th) grade students STEP Prep, which is an academic enrichment program, designed to help students graduate high school, earn career readiness certification, and prepare for and attend college and other post-secondary pathways that lead to 21st century careers; and

WHEREAS, STEP Prep engages students in a dynamic learning environment that fosters post-secondary and career exploration, work readiness training, financial literacy, and community volunteerism, and prepares students for success by connecting students to exciting opportunities, inspiring leaders through STEP mentoring, and innovative resources; and

WHEREAS, STEP awards last dollar scholarships to eligible first-time, full-time students attending Southwest Tennessee Community College or the Tennessee Technology Center at Memphis to fund unmet financial need; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The general assembly finds that it is in the best interest of the state and its citizens to encourage local education agencies to study the STEP program, or any similar program, and to consider replicating such program in their school districts with the assistance of interested partners including, but not limited to, local businesses, non-profit organizations, and educational foundations.

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