

SENATE BILL 976

By Norris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 7, Part 13, relative to the Tennessee
Veterans Education Transition Support Act.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-1304, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead:

A veteran, or individuals properly assigned the veteran's educational benefits, enrolled in any public institution of higher education in this state shall not be required to pay out-of-state tuition or any out-of-state fee, if the veteran or the eligible assignee:

(1) Is eligible for post-9/11 GI Bill benefits or Montgomery GI Bill benefits;

and

(2) Enrolls in a public institution of higher education, after satisfying all admission requirements, within three (3) years from the date of discharge as reflected on the veteran's certificate of release or discharge from active duty, Form DD-214, or an equivalent document.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-1305, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead:

To continue to qualify for in-state tuition and fees after three (3) years have passed from the date of discharge as reflected on the veteran's certificate of release or discharge from active duty, Form DD-214, or an equivalent document, an eligible student shall:

(1) Maintain continuous enrollment as defined by the public institution of higher education at which the student is enrolled; and

(2) Demonstrate objective evidence of established residency in this state by presenting at least two (2) of the following:

- (A) Proof of voter registration in this state;
- (B) A Tennessee driver license;
- (C) A Tennessee motor vehicle registration;
- (D) Proof of established employment in this state; or
- (E) Other documentation clearly evidencing domicile or residence

in the state, as determined by THEC.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 13, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) The executive director of the Tennessee higher education commission shall convene representatives from the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee board of regents systems to identify and develop uniform methods to assess and maximize academic credit awarded by public institutions of higher education to veterans and military service members for military experience, education, and training obtained during military service.

(b) The University of Tennessee and Tennessee board of regents systems shall thereafter, no later than September 1, 2016, adopt or revise policies relating to the assessment and award of academic credit for certain military education, training, or service.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.