

SENATE BILL 998

By Haile

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, Part 60, relative to Tri-Star Scholars.

WHEREAS, every student in Tennessee should graduate high school prepared for postsecondary coursework and qualified for quality employment; and

WHEREAS, industry certifications are representative of the learning a student has mastered through the successful completion of an aligned CTE course or program of study; and

WHEREAS, offering industry certifications and other early postsecondary opportunities that allow students to earn college credit helps to expand the portfolio of available options for students at various levels; and

WHEREAS, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act provides funding to states and local school districts to cover the cost of industry certification exams; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) A student who earns a composite score of nineteen (19) or higher on the ACT, or an equivalent score on the SAT, and earns a capstone industry certification as promoted by the department of education, shall be recognized as a Tennessee Tri-Star Scholar upon graduation from high school.

(b) The public high school from which a student who meets the specifications of subsection (a) graduates shall recognize the student's achievement at the graduation ceremony by placing an appropriate designation on the student's diploma, or other credential, or by providing a ribbon or cord to be worn with graduation regalia. The

student shall be noted as a Tennessee Tri-Star Scholar in the school's graduation program.

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