

HOUSE BILL 949

By Lamberth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-930, relative to dual enrollment.

WHEREAS, continuing the State's commitment to investing in career and technical education is a priority for this General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, dual enrollment presents an emerging opportunity for young Tennesseans to begin making progress toward a certificate or degree that meets their career goals; and

WHEREAS, prioritizing and ensuring young Tennesseans have access to dual enrollment courses in high-demand, high-skill trades benefits the welfare of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly recognizes the value in supporting dual enrollment opportunities that help young Tennesseans make progress toward a career; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Governor's Investment in Vocational Education Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-930, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) A high school student who is also enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution is eligible for a dual enrollment grant if the student:

(1) Is not ineligible for the grant under § 49-4-904;

(2) Is a Tennessee resident and has been a Tennessee resident, as

defined by regulations promulgated by the board of regents under § 49-8-104, for the one (1) year immediately preceding the date of application for a grant or for the renewal of a grant;

(3) Is admitted to an eligible postsecondary institution as a dual enrollment student; and

(4) Applies for the dual enrollment grant each academic year in which the student takes a dual enrollment course.

(b) A student receiving a dual enrollment grant may enroll in one (1) course per semester at an eligible postsecondary institution. To be eligible for a dual enrollment grant for a semester beyond the first semester of receipt in an academic year, the student must continue to meet all eligibility requirements for the grant and must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 for all postsecondary courses attempted under a dual enrollment grant.

(c) A student receiving a dual enrollment grant may enroll in one (1) additional course per semester at an eligible postsecondary institution as a dual enrollment student if the student:

(1) Is a junior or senior in high school; and

(2)

(A) Has qualified academically for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship by attaining the required composite ACT score or the concordant equivalent score on the SAT; or

(B) Has achieved an overall weighted high school grade point average of at least 3.0 for all high school work completed prior to the semester of enrollment as a dual enrollment student, if the student is enrolled in an eligible high school.

(d) A course attempted as a dual enrollment student does not count toward the limitation on receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under § 49-4-913. Financial assistance received for all dual enrollment courses attempted after the fourth course reduces the amount of any subsequent award of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

(e) If a dual enrollment student enrolls in an eligible public postsecondary institution after graduation from high school, then the eligible public postsecondary institution shall not deny credit toward an associate or baccalaureate degree for any college course taken as a dual enrollment student if the student successfully completed the course. If the dual enrollment course was not taken at the institution in which the student enrolls after graduation from high school, then the course qualifies for transfer credit.

(f) It is the intent of the general assembly that funding for Tennessee HOPE scholarships, Tennessee HOPE access grants, and Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grants take priority over funding for dual enrollment grants. Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, TSAC's board of directors shall determine the award for a credit hour taken under a dual enrollment grant. The award for a credit hour taken under a dual enrollment grant cannot exceed the cost per credit hour of courses taken at community colleges in the state university and community college system.

(g) Notwithstanding subsection (f), it is the intent of the general assembly that the award for the first four (4) dual enrollment courses attempted by students enrolled in a certificate or diploma program annually identified by TSAC's board of directors pursuant to this subsection (g), only provides for maintenance fees at the institution attended. The institution shall not increase the institution's maintenance fees more than the annual increase to maintenance fees established for the community colleges and Tennessee colleges of applied technology by the state university and community college system. The award described in this subsection (g) only applies to programs annually identified by TSAC's board of directors. TSAC's board of directors shall consider the

following factors in identifying programs for which a student is eligible to receive the award described in this subsection (g):

- (1) The annual workforce and credential report described in § 49-7-112(b);
 - (2) The annual workforce needs report described in § 49-7-1209; and
 - (3) The annual job placement report described in § 49-7-1210.
- (h) Courses for which a dual enrollment grant is received may be taken at any

time during the junior or senior year in high school.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.