

**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 855**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3317**

**By Representatives Brown, Hardaway**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 3304**

**By Senators Burks, Marrero**

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

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-102, is amended by deleting subsection (a) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (e), every dependent child in this state under twenty-three (23) years of age, whose parent (father or mother) was killed, died as a direct result of injuries received, or has been officially reported as being either a prisoner of war or missing in action while serving honorably as a member of the United States armed forces during a qualifying period of armed conflict or was formerly a prisoner of war or missing in action under such circumstances, or the spouse of such veteran, is entitled to a waiver of tuition, maintenance fees, student activity fees and required registration or matriculation fees, and shall be admitted without cost to any of the institutions of higher education owned, operated and maintained by the state.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-102, is further amended by deleting subsection (e) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(e) The age limitation provided for dependent children in subsection (a) shall not be strictly applied. To be eligible for the educational assistance benefits established by this section, a dependent child shall be matriculated as a full-time student at a state institution of higher education prior to attaining twenty-three (23) years of age. Once declared eligible, a dependent child shall remain eligible until one (1) of the following events has occurred:

(1) Prior to attaining twenty-three (23) years of age, the dependent child earns an undergraduate degree or certificate;

(2) The dependent child has earned one hundred thirty-five (135) semester hours, or the equivalent, excluding required remedial or developmental hours; or

(3) The dependent child has attempted one hundred fifty (150) semester hours, or the equivalent, inclusive of required remedial or developmental hours.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: April 21, 2008**

  
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JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
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RON RAMSEY, SPEAKER  
SENATE OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 1st day of May 2008**

  
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PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR