



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 930

SENATE BILL NO. 1584

By Overbey, Gardenhire, Gresham, Massey, Bell, Crowe, Dickerson, Kyle, Niceley, Roberts, Yager, Yarbrow

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1983

By Ramsey, Hawk, Mark White, Daniel, Love

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-943, relative to the Tennessee STEP UP scholarship.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-943(a), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

As used in this section, an "eligible postsecondary program" means a postsecondary program that has received the Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program designation from the United States department of education and is offered by an eligible postsecondary institution that assists students with intellectual disabilities, as defined in § 33-1-101, who have completed high school, but who need a strong system of education supports and services to access and obtain postsecondary education. To be an eligible postsecondary program, a program shall consist of an individualized program of study of up to four (4) years designed to provide meaningful postsecondary activities, including academic, career development and exploration, and independent living skills, on the postsecondary campus.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-943(b), is amended by deleting in subdivision (3) the language "high school diploma or certificate" and substituting the language "high school diploma, occupational diploma, or certificate".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-943(d), is amended by deleting subdivision (1)(B) and substituting instead the following:

The period required to complete the eligible postsecondary program, as determined by the eligible postsecondary institution, has elapsed.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-943(d), is amended by deleting subdivision (2)(B) and substituting instead the following:

The sum of the number of years that the student attended the eligible postsecondary program prior to the leave of absence and the number of years of attendance after the leave of absence equals the number of years required to complete the eligible postsecondary program in which the student is enrolled, as determined by the eligible postsecondary institution.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-943, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

Notwithstanding subsection (d), if a student completes an eligible postsecondary program that requires less than four (4) academic years to complete, the student may transfer to another eligible postsecondary program that provides a longer program and continue to receive the Tennessee STEP UP scholarship; provided, that the student meets the requirements of subdivision (c)(1) at the time of transfer.

SECTION 6. (a) Any student who is currently enrolled in an eligible program under § 49-4-943 that expands or has expanded from a two-year to a three- or four-year program shall continue to be eligible for the Tennessee STEP UP scholarship in the third or fourth year of the program, as applicable; provided, that the student continues to meet the requirements of § 49-4-943(b)(1) and (2) and the academic requirements of § 49-4-943(c)(1).

(b) No retroactive award of a STEP UP scholarship shall be made to a student who was enrolled in a three- or four-year program in the 2015-2016 academic year.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 19, 2016

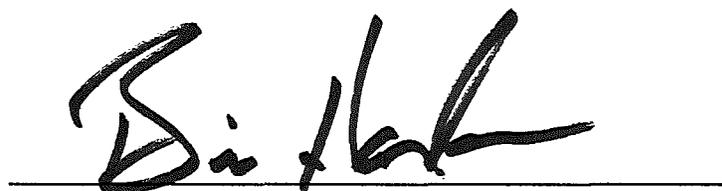


RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 17th day of April 2016



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR