

The 2022 session of the 112th Tennessee General Assembly adjourned on Thursday, April 28th. All financial aid-related bills below were passed by both chambers and will now head to the governor for signature in the next week to 10 days. Below is a summary of each bill with the final provisions. It is important to note that SB 2405/HB 2152 was passed without the provision allowing use of the HOPE Scholarship for advanced degrees. However, as previously mentioned, the issue is likely to arise next session. All bills will take effect July 1 or upon becoming law (signature from the governor) and will be effective beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year.

- SB 2405/HB 2152 – HOPE Expansion
  - Increases the HOPE Scholarship award amounts to \$4,500 for freshmen and sophomores and \$5,700 for juniors and seniors at four-year institutions
  - Increases the HOPE Scholarship award amount to \$3,200 for students at two-year institutions
  - Expands the Dual Enrollment Grant as follows:
    - Pays tuition and fees for five (5) courses or TCAT credential
    - Extends eligibility to 9th and 10th graders enrolled at TCATs
    - Removes the payback provision
    - Lowers the renewal GPA to 2.0
    - Removes the ACT/GPA requirement to take more than one course per term
  - Expands the HOPE Scholarship for nontraditional students by using independent status from the FAFSA
  - Expands the HOPE Foster Child Tuition Grant by lowering the age requirement to 13 years of age
  - Expands Tennessee Reconnect by including students who are 23 years of age regardless of dependency status
- SB 2019/HB 2094 adds eligible program of study to the Ned McWherter, Dependent Children, Minority Teaching Fellows, HOPE Foster Child, and the Helping Heroes Grant programs. It also allows Tennessee residents attending a bordering high school to participate in the Tennessee Promise Scholarship making it consistent with the HOPE Scholarship.
- SB 2631/HB 2436 will allow Tennessee Promise students who graduate early to be eligible for the scholarship.
- SB 388/HB 324 revises the Uniform Grading Policy for the HOPE Scholarship to a ten point scale (90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, etc.).
- SB 1025/HB 708 will allow South College to participate in the Ben Atchley Opportunity Grant (BAOG). This means students attending South will receive an increased award from the TSAA program.
- SB 2081/HB 2226 initially increased the semester award amount from \$1,250 to \$1,625 for the Tennessee Middle College Scholarship. However, an amendment was filed to increase the semester award and received full support in both chambers making the new award amount \$2,000 per semester.