

**Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation**

Thursday March 18, 2010

**DISCUSSION ITEM F:** 2010 General Assembly Legislative Report

**Staff Recommendation:** For discussion only.

**Background:** Members of the 106<sup>th</sup> General Assembly have introduced approximately 15 bills pertaining to the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) Program and other student financial aid issues.

A brief summary of the significant bills now pending with the General Assembly is provided in the pages that follow.

**Supporting Document:** *Summary of Legislation Pending with the 106<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010) Relative to Postsecondary Education Student Financial Aid, March 2010.*

**Summary of Legislation Pending with the 106th General Assembly (2010)  
Relative to Postsecondary Education Student financial Aid**

House Bills

- HB2721 Lottery, Scholarships and Programs - As introduced,  
SB3773 permits students majoring in math, nursing, or engineering or enrolled in a teacher education program seeking licensure to teach math or science to retain the Tennessee HOPE scholarship by making a cumulative collegiate grade point average of 2.75 whenever academic eligibility is checked.
- HB2723 Education - This bill will initiate the Early Graduation  
SB3746 Achievement Scholarship Program, whereby students who qualify for early graduation from high school would receive those funds attributable to the student from the State Education Finance fund as a college scholarship. A student who participates in the program is eligible for a scholarship of \$2,500 if the student qualifies for graduation one semester early, \$5,000 if the student qualifies for graduation two semesters early, or \$7,500 if the student qualifies for graduation three (3) or more semesters early.
- HB2969 Lottery, Scholarships and Programs - This bill will change  
SB2909 the requirement for HOPE Access Grant recipients to enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution from the current sixteen (16) months after graduating to twenty-eight (28) months after graduating.
- HB3169 Taxes - As introduced, establishes an offset procedure for  
SB3135 the state to recover debts owed to the state from a person who is entitled to a state tax refund.
- HB3350 Administrative Procedure (UAPA) - As introduced, requires  
SB3550 the agency proposing any new rule, amendment to a rule, or repeal of an existing rule to prepare a statement of benefit and transmit the proposal to the fiscal review committee for an analysis of the fiscal impact of the proposal.
- HB3351 State Government - Requires that any anticipated change  
SB3549 in revenue, expenditures, or fiscal liability of new, or changes to, rules and regulations be reported. Additionally, no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties

unless the General Assembly provide that the state share in the cost.

HB3413  
SB3268

Education, Higher - As introduced, allows students in graduate degree programs leading to licensure as a teacher to be recipients of a minority teaching fellowship; eliminates limitation on number of awards. - Amends TCA Section 49-4-706.

### Senate Bills

SB1137  
HB1668

Lottery, Scholarships and Programs - As introduced, requires students to make a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at any time continuing eligibility for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship is reviewed to continue to receive the scholarship. -

SB2650  
HB3014

Licenses - As introduced, requires licenses issued by the Department of Commerce and Insurance and licenses required to work as athlete agents, lobbyists, and K-12 public school teachers to be denied, suspended, or revoked, if student loans are not paid.

SB2815  
HB3252

Lottery, Scholarships and Programs - As introduced, allows HOPE eligible student, meeting general and academic requirements, to regain a HOPE scholarship lost by leaving an eligible two- or four-year postsecondary institution, where the student had a HOPE scholarship, and enrolling at a Tennessee technology center, if the student subsequently returns to an eligible two- or four-year institution without any break in continuous enrollment in postsecondary institutions. Effective 2010-11 academic year.

SB2888  
HB3029

Lottery, Scholarships and Programs - As introduced, adds University of Tennessee System and Board of Regents as recipients of THEC's annual report on scholarship and grant programs data.

SB2899  
HB3479

Lottery, Scholarships and Programs - As introduced, redefines "eligible independent postsecondary institution" to include institutions that are members of an accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. department of education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

SB2924 HB3209	Taxes, Excise - As introduced, allows franchise and excise tax credit for donations to certain charitable organizations that provide scholarships to Tennessee residents to attend Tennessee nonpublic elementary and secondary schools.
SB2935 HB3189	Public Contracts - As introduced, requires commissioners and agency heads to certify to the comptroller that state employees could not have been used instead of contracting with outside entities in rendering services as organized in Title 4, Chapter 3. All such contracts shall be subject to review by the Fiscal Review Committee in the same manner as the committee reviews non-competitive contracts.
SB2936 HB3217	As introduced, this bill would create the "Electronic High School", providing 450 students the opportunity to attend high school via electronic courses.
SB3023 HB3084	Lottery, Scholarships and Programs - As introduced, adds the Board of Trustees for the University of Tennessee and The Board of Regents for the state university and community college system to the recipients of a THEC report on the lottery scholarship and grant programs.
SB3128 HB3241	As introduced, changes the requirement for undergraduate full-time attendance at public institutions of higher education from 12 semester hours to 14 semester hours.
SB3262 HB3528	Lottery, Scholarships and Programs - As introduced, establishes an Early Intervention Program account to be funded from excess lottery funds to be administered by the Department of Education
SB3343 HB3962	Transfers remaining amount of funds in the Energy Efficient Schools initiative to the Lottery for Education Account. The balance in the Energy Efficient Schools fund is \$89,626,700, resulting in a one-time revenue opportunity for TSAC for the Lottery for Education Account.
SB3356 HB3961	Lottery, Scholarships and Programs - As introduced, creates a supplemental Bridge Bridge Grant scholarship program for the 2010-2011 academic year for Tennessee HOPE scholarship students. This bill also provides that all funds that were transferred from the Lottery for Education fund for the Energy Efficient Schools Council Fund not yet obliged shall be returned to the Lottery for Education Fund prior to June 30, 2010 proposed in SB3343.

## **Classified Listing of Bills Relative to Higher Education**

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

\*HB3350/SB3550

### EARLY INTERVENTION

\*SB3262/HB3528

### ELIGIBILITY (HOPE ACCESS GRANT)

\*HB2969/SB2909

### ELIGIBILITY (TELS)

\*SB2815/HB3252

\*SB3128/HB3241

### EXPANSION OF EXISTING PROGRAM

\*HB3413/SB3268

\*SB2899/HB3479

### GPA - GRADE POINT AVERAGE

\*HB2721/SB3773

\*SB1137/HB1668

### LICENSE REVOCATION

\*SB2650/HB3014

### NEW PROGRAM

\*HB2723/SB3746

\*SB2936/HB3217

\*SB3343/HB3962

\*SB3356/HB3961

### PUBLIC CONTRACTS

\*SB2935/HB3189

### REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

\*HB2529

\*SB2888/HB3029

\*SB3023/HB3084

### STATE GOVERNMENT (RULES)

\*HB3351/SB3549

### STATEWIDE ARTICULATION

\*HB2423/SB2385

### TAXES

\*HB2525/SB3703

\*HB3169/SB3135

\*SB2924/HB3209