

## **TENNESSEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION**

Thursday, September 17, 2009

### **DISCUSSION ITEM D: 2009 General Assembly Report**

**Staff Recommendation** For discussion only.

SB 2357/HB 2389 – (the “Omnibus” bill) included a provision in Section 52 to make the executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) the executive director of TSAC. While leaving the TSAC board of directors in place, this provision gives the director full responsibility of the day-to-day operations over TSAC. As efforts move forward to create administrative efficiencies between the two agencies, TSAC will continue to fully service all loan, scholarship, and grant program activities as usual, as well as work hard to make improvements in operations and customer service.

SB 2355/HB 2392 – (the Appropriations Bill) authorized the Commissioner of Finance and Administration to make appropriation transfers between THEC and TSAC to implement administrative reorganizations.

SB 1037/HB 1095 – (TSAC’s sunset bill) was passed, extending TSAC’s statutory authority for five years.

SB 37/HB 839 – One of only two lottery bills that passed. This expands eligibility for the Helping Heroes Grant Scholarship to include current members of a Reserve or Tennessee National Guard unit. Previous program requirements allowed only former members of the Guard or Reserve to participate. The program is statutorily capped at \$750,000, which continues under this bill, but has historically been under-spent.

HB 1143/SB 771 – A technical correction bill which clarifies language in the lottery scholarship program regarding summer enrollment and requirements for provisional receipt of a HOPE scholarship. Specifically, the bill clarifies that a student attending summer school does not need to attend full time in order to maintain eligibility for the HOPE scholarship at the next GPA checkpoint.