

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Discussion Item F: 2017 Budget and Legislative Report

Staff Recommendation: For discussion only.

Background: **TSAA:** The Governor's 2017-2018 recommended budget included an increase of \$10 million for the Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA). If passed by the General Assembly, this will bring the total combined appropriation for TSAA to \$97.7 million. This amount will serve more than 54,000 need-based students.

Ned McWherter: Also recommended in the 2017-2018 budget is an appropriation of \$300,000 for the Ned McWherter Academic Scholars program. This increase represents an additional 100 students, bringing the total number of students served to approximately 375.

Legislation: Sixteen bills related to TSAC programs were filed during the first session of the 110th General Assembly. At the time of printing this board material, final passage of four of these bills was still to be determined. Summaries of four bills which were in the final phases of passage are provided on the following page.

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The first session of the 110th General Assembly considered 16 bills related to TSAC's financial aid programs. Brief summaries of the bills anticipated to pass in both the House of Representatives and Senate are provided below.

SB 34 (Harris)
HB 329 (Cooper)

Decreases the amount of time that teachers are required to teach math or science in a public school from two years to one year for each year the Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship is received.

SB 585 (Gresham)
HB 335 (Kumar)

Provides that a student enrolling in the Dual Enrollment program need only submit one application per academic year, rather than one application per semester.

SB 720 (Yager)
HB 980 (Travis)

Creates the Tennessee Middle College Scholarship program, funded by net lottery proceeds. Students entering their junior year of high school may enroll in a participating community college and earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree in two years. The award amount is \$1,200 per year for two years. Awards begin in the fall semester of 2018.

SB 1218 (Norris)
HB 531 (Hawk)

Creates the Tennessee Reconnect Grant program. Awards are last-dollar scholarships for tuition and fees and will begin in the fall semester of 2018. The Reconnect will allow Tennessee adult residents with an independent status on the FAFSA the opportunity to return to college and complete an associate degree.