

HOUSE BILL 803
By Goins

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, relative to the allocation of state tobacco settlement funds.

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

SECTION 1.

(a) Subject to funding being provided therefore in the general appropriations act, no less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per fiscal year of the funds received by the state of Tennessee pursuant to the attorneys general master tobacco settlement agreement shall be allocated to a scholarship fund for active tobacco growers and their immediate family members. Such allocation shall be made annually for the term of the attorneys general master tobacco settlement agreement.

(b) The monies allocated to the scholarship fund shall be utilized exclusively to provide financial assistance to active tobacco farmers and their immediate family for tuition and ancillary expenses associated with obtaining a post-secondary education, including matriculation at a public or private institution of higher learning, vocational or technical school or proprietary school.

(c) For the purposes of this act:

(1) "Active tobacco farmer" means a person who has grown and harvested one (1) or more tobacco crops during at least two (2) of the past three (3) growing seasons immediately proceeding application for a scholarship pursuant to this act; and

(2) "Immediate family" means a spouse or a child less than twenty-one (21) years of age who is living in the household.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. The commissioner of agriculture is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.