

MINUTES
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MARSHALL SUBCOMMITTEE**

DATE: Friday, January 10, 2020
TIME: Upon Adjournment of the Floor
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Marshall, Representatives Shepherd, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Abernathy, Berch
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Reps. Shepherd and Abernathy
GUESTS: Tracie Bent, State Board of Education; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Greg Wilson, Governor's Office

Chairman Marshall called the meeting to order at 8:25 am.

**DOCKET NO.
08-0113-1901:** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, presented **Docket No. 08-0113-1901**, regarding the Opportunity Scholarship. The governing statute was amended several years ago to allow the Board to award money to people with some credits and no degree. This rule adds a definition for these adult learners.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Bent** provided the number of applicants and awards.

Ms. Bent noted the rule lowers the grade point average (GPA) requirement from 3.0 to 2.7 for traditional high school applicants. Data shows students within the lower grade range are still successful; there was also feedback, particularly from the Hispanic and Native American communities, that other factors impact GPA and 3.0 was too high. For adult learners, the GPA requirement for an initial award is 2.5. She stated their GPAs are often old because they have been out of the education system for a while. After their first year taking classes, adult learners must then meet the 2.7 requirement.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Bent** clarified the Opportunity Scholarship is a hybrid based 70% on need and 30% on merit. The students with highest need and highest merit are awarded first. Changing the GPA increases the pool of eligible applicants. She also noted the statute allows up to 20% of the scholarship appropriation to be used for adult learners, but the Board is not close to meeting that threshold.

The rule creates a maximum award amount for adult learners attending part-time; traditional applicants must attend full-time. **Ms. Bent** stated at no time does the award amount exceed the cost of tuition and fees.

Ms. Bent explained the addition of a graduation plan requirement for adult learners. The institution will work with the student to identify their goal, evaluate their prior experience and determine what courses they need to take to earn their degree. Satisfactory progress on their graduation plan is a requirement for scholarship renewal.

Chairman Marshall discussed the Subcommittee's upcoming schedule.

Rep. DeMordaunt requested additional information about scholarship applicants and their GPAs.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.

Representative Marshall
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary