



**STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**Student Senate**

*of the*

**East Tennessee State University**

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**SSA-24-004**

Senators Nicholas DeRusha and Isabella Johnson present the following legislation to the East Tennessee State University Student Government Association on behalf of ETSU students currently receiving services from the Access ETSU program.

**AN ACT FOR THE CREATION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE SPECIAL SENATE  
SEAT WITH UNIQUE PARAMETERS.**

**WHEREAS**, Student Government Association should strive to be inclusive and represent all student on ETSU's campus;

**WHEREAS**, this act would add a seat specifically for students receiving services from the Access ETSU program. Students applying for candidacy for the Student Government Association would be elected to an Undergraduate Special seat during the normal campaign cycle.

**WHEREAS**, waiving the GPA requirement for students receiving services from Access ETSU would allow students to participate in SGA and have active representation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE 2024 STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION SENATE OF THE EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
THAT:**

**Section 1.** Access ETSU is a program that offers supplemental support to young adults with an intellectual disability who seek to enhance their academic, career development, and social skills among their peers at ETSU.

A. Undergraduate special seats qualify as Access ETSU students, auditing students, and Brewery and Distillation minors.

**Section 2.** This act would amend Article III, Section 4. It would read as follows:

A. Thirty five (35) seats shall be apportioned to the Student Senate, this being the maximum size of the Senate. Thirty two of these seats shall be elected by the student body at large in the general election and shall be apportioned among the University's colleges and schools that house academic majors and Undeclared Students. Within this, there will be a seat specifically for the students that receive services from Access

ETSU in an Undergraduate Special section. This shall be done by the Secretary of Interior with the assistance of the Student Government Association Advisor based on total student enrollment figures from the previous Fall Census.

- B. In addition, the remaining three (3) Senate seats shall be appointed by the Dean of the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy, the Quillen College of Medicine, and the School of Graduate Studies through whatever process they deem appropriate.

**Section 3.** This would amend Article III, Section 2 for Senator Qualifications to make an exception for GPA requirements for students who receive services from Access ETSU.

A. Currently, all students applying for Senate must have a minimum 2.5 GPA. This would change the Constitution as follows:

Section 2. Qualifications of the Student Senate shall include:

- a. Must be a student at East Tennessee State University with full-time status during the Fall and Spring semesters
- b. Have and maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5.

I. This GPA requirement and full-time status requirement will be exempt for students receiving services from Access ETSU, due to the lack of requirements from this program allowing for students to participate.

B. The requirements for attending Senate meetings can be more than two meetings missed for only students receiving services from Access ETSU. The exact amount can be up to the discretion of the Executive Vice President.

**Section 4.** Access ETSU faculty will determine the eligibility of the student when helping them apply

**Section 5.** A peer mentor within SGA will be selected to assist this student in attending meetings and ensuring their needs are met. This peer mentor will be selected at the Executive Vice President's discretion.

**Section 6.** All legislation or parts of legislation in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

**Section 7.** This shall take effect by the Spring 2024 Student Government Association elections.