



SB-F22-L005

**An Act to Provide Improved Benefits to Resident Assistants**

- Whereas,** Resident Assistants (RAs) at Tennessee Tech do not currently receive adequate payment from the university to pay for both a dorm and meals throughout the semester, and,
- Whereas,** around eighty-five percent of compensation that RAs receive goes toward their dorm room cost, and,
- Whereas,** the remaining fifteen percent paid to Resident Assistants is only enough to afford the cheapest block meal plan, the Tech 40, and,
- Whereas,** this structure may discourage talented individuals who would have otherwise served their residents with enthusiasm from applying to become an RA due to the initial financial burden of doing so, and,
- Whereas,** there is an indication that Tennessee Tech has experienced the aforementioned effects of this, as indicated by a consistent shortage of RA applicants, and,
- Whereas,** offering rooms free-of-charge to RAs would offer a significant incentive for new individuals to apply while helping retain existing RAs by freeing up eighty-five percent of their payment, and,
- Whereas,** alternatively offering Gold Meal plans free-of-charge to RAs would offer a significant help to those struggling to feed themselves on the remaining fifteen percent of their payment,
- Whereas,** providing RAs with free housing or meal plans would greatly reduce the stress and financial or food-related insecurities experienced by this talented population of individuals and serve as a valuable recruiting tool in acquiring new RAs for the future.

**NOW THEREFORE,**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF  
TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY THAT**

- Section 1: This bill shall be known as the “Resident Assistants Benefits Act of 2022.”
- Section 2: The University either will include a Gold Meal plan as outlined in the Fall 2022 semester to resident assistants or pay off their dorm as a part of their contract/compensation plan.

- Section 3: If meal plans are modified from the Fall 2022 semester offerings or the Gold Meal plan cannot be offered, then an equivalent meal plan with Unlimited Access every day to The Caf must be offered within the contract/compensation plan.
- Section 4: If a Resident Assistant wishes to upgrade their meal plan to any other meal plan above the current offering, then they may by paying the difference in pricing to the university.
- Section 5: A Resident Assistant may not downgrade their plan or trade this benefit in exchange for other compensation.
- Section 6: If dorms are paid off for Resident Assistants and the price of an unlimited meal plan increases beyond a Resident Assistants Stipend compensation, their compensation shall increase to match the price of the unlimited meal plan.
- Section 7: This Bill shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Student Government Association, the welfare of the students requiring it.

**Respectively Submitted by:**  
Tymothy J. Brandel  
*Senator, College of Graduate Studies*

**Co-Sponsor(s):**  
Harrison Simpson  
*Senator, The First Year Assembly*

Mary Davis  
*Senator, Residence Hall Association  
Representative*

Keegan Bilodeau  
*Senator, Residence Hall Association  
Representative*

Joshua Gordon  
*Senator, College of Graduate Studies*

Marc Anthony Hardin  
*Senator, College of Education*

Tyce Henderson  
*Senator, College of Engineering*

Pooja Patel  
*Senator, College of Engineering*

Samantha Bugter  
*Senator, College of Engineering*

Jacob Bruce  
*Senator, First Year Assembly*

Jeb MacLennan  
*Senator, Whitson-Hester School of  
Nursing*

Madison Jones  
*Senator, College of Agriculture and  
Human Ecology*

Kelsey Hewitt  
*Senator, First Year Assembly*


Cheyenne Bare  
*Senator, First Year Assembly*

Emma Parson  
*Senator, First Year Assembly*

Noelle Hilton  
*Senator, Agriculture and Human  
Ecology*

Na 'Quaja Gaines  
*Senator, Multicultural Affairs*

Signed: Addison Dorris  
Addison Dorris, President

  
Dr. Ben Stubbs, Advisor