

TUITION REFUND DEEMED LIKELY

Out-of-State Students at Technical School May Get Back Fee

From Chattanooga Times Bureau

NASHVILLE — The Chattanooga State Technical Community College is authorized to continue collecting tuition from out-of-state students, but the school may have to refund tuition it collected while operating as a technical institute.

That was a ruling released Wednesday by the state attorney general's office.

It held that the state Board of Regents isn't authorized to waive the collection of tuition from non-residents attending state universities and colleges under its control.

But, assistant state Atty. Gen. William L. Barry said, the state board of education has no authority to require out-of-state students to pay tuition for attending area vocational and technical schools and technical institutes.

The ruling may affect some students attending the Chattanooga area vocational technical school, and Barry said tuition previously collected by technical institutes must be refunded if a request is made.

The Chattanooga State Technical Institute was designated a community college, effective July 1, in legislation enacted earlier this year. The state government continues to operate technical institutes at Nashville and Memphis.

The state education department was unable to provide figures on how much the Chattanooga institution might have to return as a result of having collected tuition from non-residents without statutory authority.

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