



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 939

SENATE BILL NO. 1266

By Niceley, Bowling, Ford

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1129

By Timothy Hill, Kevin Brooks, Casada, Sexton, Bailey, Rogers, Van Huss, Matthew Hill

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1011(a), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

() The United States Constitution;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1011, is amended by adding the following language as new subsections (e) and (f):

(e) Each student shall be taught the documents, writings or records set out in subsection (a).

(f) The documents, writings or records set out in subsection (a) shall be taught at an age appropriate time prior to graduation from high school as determined by the state board of education.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1028, is amended by deleting subsections (b) and (c) in their entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b)(1) The state board of education shall include in the social studies curriculum standards, at the appropriate grade level or levels in high school, as determined by the state board of education through curriculum standards and the local board of education through curriculum, courses and content designed to educate children about the United States and Tennessee governments. The curriculum standards shall include the three (3) branches of government, the fundamental documents identified in § 49-6-1001(a) that underpin our form of government, an understanding of how laws are enacted, and ways citizens shape and influence government and governmental actions.

(2) Students shall be taught about the formation of the governments of the United States and Tennessee using federal and state foundational documents. They shall also be taught the significance and relevance of those federal and state foundational documents today. This instruction shall include:

(A) The historical and present-day significance of the Declaration of Independence;

(B) How the United States Constitution establishes the federal government and the characteristics of the republic created by it;

(C) How the United States Constitution with the Bill of Rights and the Tennessee Constitution with the Declaration of Rights are applicable in today's society;

(D) How the United States Constitution is changed and the changes that have been made to it since 1787;

(E) Why Tennessee has had three (3) constitutions, the Constitutions of 1796, 1834, and 1870, and how changes have been made to the Tennessee Constitution of 1870; and

(F) How other foundational documents of the United States and Tennessee aided in the formation of the federal and state governments.

(c) The commissioner of education shall advise all local boards of education of the requirements of this section.

(d) The state board of education shall submit a report to the members of the general assembly concerning implementation of this act by August 1, 2014, and each year thereafter. The report may be sent to the members electronically or in an existing annual report.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 16, 2014



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 19th day of May 2014



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR