



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 426

SENATE BILL NO. 415

By **Lowe, Bailey, Southerland, Walley, Watson**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 675

By Cochran; Mr. Speaker Sexton; Lamberth, Faison, Haston, Cepicky, Boyd, McCalmon, Tim Hicks, Grills, Maberry, Rudder, Sherrell, Leatherwood, Moon, Raper, Davis, Hale, Reedy, Terry, Howell, Helton-Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8 and Title 49, relative to education.

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

SECTION 1.

(a)(1) There is created an advisory committee on innovations in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) education that consists of:

(A) Four (4) members of the senate appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(B) Four (4) members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(C) One (1) representative of the state board of education appointed by the governor; and

(D) One (1) representative of the department of education appointed by the governor.

(2) The appointing authorities shall make appointments to the advisory committee no later than July 1, 2025.

(3) The advisory committee shall convene its first meeting no later than August 1, 2025. The advisory committee shall schedule the number and frequency of all other meetings of the advisory committee until the advisory committee completes the required study and develops any recommendations for purposes of the report required in subsection (d).

(4) Members of the advisory committee serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for per diem and for any travel expenses in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(5) The department of education shall assist the advisory committee upon request and shall prepare the report required in subsection (d).

(b) The committee created in subsection (a) shall study the:

(1) Evaluation process for teachers and principals in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(d), including all relevant rules and policies, to determine the appropriate process, frequency, and content of teacher and principal evaluations, and to assess how effective and productive the current process is in evaluating the performance of teachers and principals;

(2) State- and locally-mandated assessments for students enrolled in any of the grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12), to determine, at a minimum, the appropriate scope and frequency of such assessments, and how best to use or apply student performance on state- and locally-mandated assessments for student, teacher, school, and district accountability and for all other purposes;

(3) One hundred eighty (180) days of classroom instruction required in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3004(a)(1), to determine whether allowing LEAs and public charter schools the ability to satisfy the requirement by providing a minimum number of instructional hours per school year would benefit the community and the students served by the LEA or public charter school;

(4) Academic standards adopted by the state board for high school grades and subjects, to determine whether allowing students who may be working toward completing a career and technical education (CTE) elective focus to substitute certain CTE courses for courses required by the state board to receive a full diploma upon graduation from high school that are designed to assist students in pursuing a baccalaureate degree at a four-year postsecondary institution, as opposed to students pursuing a CTE pathway or credential; and

(5) Educational, licensure, and training requirements for educators and persons pursuing teaching as a profession in this state, as well as the compensation structure and incentives for licensed educators, to determine the frequency, number, and utility of each requirement and to determine how best to incentivize educators to meet certain goals and expectations in order to develop high-performing educators and retain and support high-performing educators.

(c) The advisory committee may request information and feedback from one (1) or more third parties with specialized knowledge in, or experience with, one (1) or more of the subject areas identified in subsection (b) to assist the committee in its study.

(d) The advisory committee shall submit a report to the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the education committee of the senate, and the committee of the house of representatives with jurisdiction over elementary and secondary education by December 31, 2025. The report must include the advisory committee's recommendations, if any, for legislation or modification of existing rules and policies, based on the findings of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (b).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 415

PASSED: April 22, 2025




RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 9th day of May 2025



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR