

Tracked Education Bills

SB14/HB174 EDUCATION: Creates a list of rights and protections afforded to educators.

Sponsors: Sen. Green, Mark , Rep. Reedy, Jay
Summary: Creates a list of rights and protections afforded to educators. Specifies that an "educator" means any teacher, principal, supervisor or other individual required by law to hold a valid license of qualification for employment in the public schools.
Intro Dates: S: 01/10/17, H: 02/01/17
Senate Status: 01/30/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 02/03/17 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB52/HB164 EDUCATION: Reporting on driver education courses in public schools.

Sponsors: Sen. Dickerson, Steven , Rep. Smith, Eddie
Summary: Requires the department of education to annually report on the availability and content of driver education and training courses in public schools to the education committee of the senate and the education instruction and programs committee of the house. Broadly captioned.
Fiscal Note: (Dated January 16, 2017) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Intro Dates: S: 01/30/17, H: 02/01/17
Senate Status: 02/01/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 02/03/17 - Referred to House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

SB149/HB89 EDUCATION: Restrictions for hiring school bus drivers.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Rogers, Courtney
Summary: Places restrictions on receiving school bus driver license endorsements or being hired as a school bus driver for drivers who have previously committed serious traffic violations, including excessive speeding or reckless driving.
Intro Dates: S: 01/30/17, H: 01/30/17
Senate Status: 02/01/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 02/07/17 - Referred to House Transportation Subcommittee.

SB161/HB126 EDUCATION: Creation of the Opportunity Scholarship Pilot Program.

Sponsors: Sen. Kelsey, Brian , Rep. Brooks, Harry
Summary: Enacts the "Opportunity Scholarship Pilot Program," which awards scholarships to eligible students in certain LEAs (local education agencies), identified on a list approved by the state board of education as having at least thirty schools in the bottom five percent of schools in overall achievement as determined by the performance standards and other criteria set by the state board.
Fiscal Note: (Dated February 14, 2017) Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$330,400/FY17-18 \$230,400/FY18-19 and Subsequent Years
 Other Fiscal Impact – For local education agencies that have schools in the bottom five percent of achievement and are mandated to participate in the statewide scholarship program, the shift of state and required local BEP funding from these local education agencies to the non-public participating schools is estimated as follows: \$8,867,500 in FY17-18; \$13,633,100 in FY18-19; \$18,632,500 in FY19-20; and an amount exceeding \$18,632,500 in FY18-19 and subsequent years.
Intro Dates: S: 02/01/17, H: 02/01/17
Senate Status: 02/15/17 - Senate Education Committee deferred until 3/8/17.
House Status: 02/03/17 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB168/HB131 EDUCATION: LEAs- Audit reports.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores , Rep. Dunn, Bill
Summary: Changes the time period an LEA must submit a copy of their audit report on school funds to the commissioner of education, from ten days to fifteen business days.
Fiscal Note: (Dated February 1, 2017) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Intro Dates: S: 02/01/17, H: 02/01/17
Senate Status: 02/02/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 02/03/17 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB380/HB336 EDUCATION: Tennessee Choice & Opportunity Scholarship Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd , Rep. Dunn, Bill
Summary: Enacts the Tennessee Choice & Opportunity Scholarship Act, which establishes a scholarship program for students wanting to attend private K-12 schools. In order for a student to be eligible for the scholarship program, the student must reside in Tennessee and be zoned to attend or enrolled in a public school that is identified as being in the bottom five percent of schools in overall achievement as determined by the state board of education. The student must be above five years of age or will become five years of age on or before August 15 of each year. Eligibility for the program can extend until the student graduates from high school, but the student must be less than twenty-two years of age by August 15 of each year. The student must be a member of a household whose annual income during the year prior to initial receipt of a scholarship met the requirements for free or reduced price lunch, and was previously enrolled in a Tennessee public school during the two semesters immediately preceding the semester in which the student receives a scholarship for enrolling in a Tennessee school for the first time or received a scholarship in the previous school year. The annual scholarship amount a student can be eligible for, is the cost of tuition and fees that would otherwise be charged by the school, or the amount representing the per pupil state and local funds generated and required through the basic education program for the LEA in which the student resides and is zoned to attend. The total number of scholarships awarded statewide for the 2017–2018 school year, shall not exceed five thousand scholarships. For the 2018–2019 school year, no more than seven thousand five hundred scholarships. For the 2019–2020 school year, no more than ten

thousand scholarships. For the 2020–2021 school year and thereafter, no more than twenty thousand scholarships shall be awarded. Allows private schools in Tennessee to voluntarily agree to participate in the program and enroll eligible students, but the participating private school must provide notice, on an annual basis, of intent to participate in the program to the department of education through an application developed by the department. The participating school must be identified as a category I, II, or III school, annually administer to scholarship students state assessments as provided or nationally recognized norm-referenced tests; provide the parents of scholarship students the results of their individual student's annual assessments, provide the department of education with graduation rates of scholarship students as well as other student information, and comply with nondiscrimination policies. Requires participating schools to submit to the department a financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant, and provide lunch to scholarship students at no cost or at a reduced cost pursuant to the same income qualifications established under the National School Lunch Program. Requires the department of education to determine and approve school and student eligibility and participation; if the number of eligible students who submit applications exceeds the permissible number of scholarships available statewide or the available seats at participating schools for any grade level, the department shall conduct a random selection process to award scholarships that provides each eligible student with an equal opportunity for selection. The department may suspend or terminate a school's participation in the program, if the department determines the school has failed to comply with the requirements outlined in code section 49-1-1203 (A) of the bill. If a participating school is suspended or terminated from the program, or if the school otherwise withdraws from the program, scholarship students enrolled at the school may transfer to another participating school without loss of scholarship eligibility and such students shall be given preference for enrollment.

Intro Dates: S: 02/06/17, H: 02/02/17

Senate Status: 02/08/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status: 02/07/17 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB381/HB395 EDUCATION: Restraint systems required on school buses.

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd , Rep. Favors, JoAnne

Summary: Requires any school bus ordered or purchased on or after July 1, 2018, to be equipped with a restraint system. Also requires any school bus that is currently used to transport students be equipped with a restraint system by July 1, 2023.

Intro Dates: S: 02/06/17, H: 02/06/17

Senate Status: 02/08/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status: 02/08/17 - Referred to House Transportation Subcommittee.

SB395/HB460 EDUCATION: Empowerment Scholarship Account Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores , Rep. Kane, Roger

Summary: Enacts the "Empowerment Scholarship Account Act," which establishes a program whereby parents may utilize funds in an empowerment scholarship account (ESA) to pay the education expenses of enrolling their eligible students/children in a nonpublic school that is participating in the program instead of enrolling in a public school. Requires the department of education to create a standard form that a parent of a student may submit to establish the student's eligibility for an ESA, establish annual enrollment periods for parents to apply for the program, provide parents of participating students with a written explanation of the allowable uses of an ESA, ensure that lower-income families are made aware of the program and eligibility requirements, and post on its website a list of participating schools for each school year, the grades taught in the school, and other information that the department determines shall assist parents in selecting a participating school. Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, enrollment in the program shall be limited to the equivalent of one-half of one percent of the estimated statewide total public school enrollment in the prior school year. New enrollment shall increase by an additional one-half of one percent of the statewide enrollment each school year thereafter. If there are more applicants than ESAs available due to this section, the department shall award ESAs on a random lottery basis with preference granted to children who have a parent who is a member of the armed forces of the United States and who is on active duty or was killed in the line of duty, foster children who have achieved permanency through adoption or permanent guardianship, or who are residing with a prospective permanent placement and the case plan is adoption or permanent guardianship, and children who are members of a household whose annual income during the year prior to initial enrollment in the program met the requirements for free or reduced price lunch; or who reside in an LEA with at least one school in the bottom five percent of schools in overall achievement as determined by the performance standards and other criteria set by the state board of education. Parents must also sign an agreement to provide an education for the participating student in, at a minimum, the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies, and science. Parents must also not enroll their eligible student in a public school and must release the local education agency in which the student resides and is zoned to attend from all obligations to educate the student. A participating student enrolled in the program shall forfeit program eligibility and further access to the student's ESA account if the student enrolls in a public school, graduates from high school, or reaches twenty-two years of age by August 15 for the next school year, whichever occurs first. A participating student may return to the student's LEA at any time after enrolling in the program in compliance with rules promulgated by the state board of education; upon a participating student's return to the student's LEA, the student's ESA shall be closed, and any remaining funds shall be returned to the state treasurer to be placed in the basic education program (BEP) account of the education trust fund. Any funds remaining in a student's ESA upon graduation from high school may be used to attend or take courses from an eligible postsecondary institution, with qualifying expenses. Upon a participating student's graduation from a postsecondary institution or after any period of four consecutive years after high school graduation in which the student is not enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution, the participating student's ESA shall be closed, and any remaining funds shall be returned to the state treasurer to be placed in the basic education program (BEP) account of the education trust fund. Only the department of education may deposit funds into an ESA, but does not prohibit parents or third parties on a parent's behalf from making payments for the costs of educational programs and services not covered by the funds in the ESA. Requires that a parent ensure that the participating student is annually administered, in the student's eligible participating school, either a nationally norm-referenced test identified by the department of education or the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests or any future replacements of the TCAP tests. Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate, as determined on the student's IEP, are exempt from this requirement. The results of the tests are provided to the department or an organization chosen by the department on an annual basis, beginning with the first year of testing. The department, or an organization chosen by the department, shall annually produce and publish a report, in

compliance with all state and federal privacy laws, to be made available on the department's website. The report shall include: Student performance on state achievement tests or nationally norm-referenced tests, including learning gains, high school graduation rates, the percentage of funds used for each qualifying expense, the fiscal impact to the state and resident school districts of the program, including the impact on revenue and the impact on expenses, and a report on the fiscal savings associated with students departing public schools, regardless of whether a public school from which a student would have attended reduces its spending accordingly. The department shall provide the chair of the senate education committee, the chair of the house of representatives education administration and planning committee, and the chair of the house of representatives education instruction and programs committee with a final copy of the report. The department may remove any participating student from eligibility for an ESA for failure to comply with the terms of the contract or applicable laws, rules, or orders, or if the student or student's parent knowingly misuses monies or knowingly fails to comply with the terms of the contract with intent to defraud. If the department suspends or terminates a school's participation, the department shall notify affected participating students and parents of the decision. If a participating school is suspended, terminated, or withdraws from the program, affected participating students shall remain eligible to participate in the program until a disqualifying event occurs. All ESAs shall be subject to random and quarterly audits as needed by the comptroller of the treasury. The funds in an ESA may be used only for educational purposes. Participating schools, eligible postsecondary institutions, and providers that enroll participating students shall provide parents with a receipt for all qualifying expenses at the school or institution.

Fiscal Note:

(Dated February 20, 2017) Increase State Revenue – \$1,396,000/FY18-19 Exceeds \$2,862,000/FY19-20 and Subsequent Years Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$1,169,800/FY17-18 Exceeds \$945,800/FY18-19 and Subsequent Years Other Fiscal Impact – For local education agencies that have participating students in the ESA program, the shift of state and required local BEP funding from these local education agencies to the non-public participating schools is estimated as follows: \$34,900,800 in FY18-19; and amount estimated to exceed \$71,548,800 in FY19-20 and subsequent years.

Intro Dates:

S: 02/06/17, H: 02/08/17

Senate Status:

02/08/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status:

02/23/17 - Set for House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee 02/28/17.

SB404/HB356 EDUCATION: Payroll deduction of dues to professional employees' organizations.

Sponsors:

Sen. Gresham, Dolores , Rep. Dunn, Bill

Summary:

Adds language that allows a local board of education to provide its professional employees payroll deduction for dues of professional employees' organizations, but does not require an LEA to do so. If an LEA makes available to its professional employees payroll deduction for the dues of one professional employees' organization, then the LEA shall make available to its professional employees payroll deduction for the dues of any professional organization; provided, that the requested deduction is made in writing from the professional employee. A professional employee who authorizes a deduction of dues of a professional employees' organization, may at any time, revoke the authorization for payroll deduction. If an LEA provides payroll deduction of dues of a professional employees' organization for its professional employees, then the LEA may withhold up to ten percent of the dues deducted for administrative expenses.

Intro Dates:

S: 02/06/17, H: 02/02/17

Senate Status:

02/23/17 - Set for Senate Education Committee 03/01/17.

House Status:

02/07/17 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB577/HB42 EDUCATION: Department of education bicycle safety curriculum.

Sponsors:

Sen. Gresham, Dolores , Rep. Butt, Sheila

Summary:

Urges the department of education to include the proper use and positioning of bicycle helmets in its pilot bicycle safety curriculum. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note:

(Dated January 20, 2017) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Intro Dates:

H: 01/30/17

Senate Status:

02/09/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status:

02/01/17 - Referred to House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

SB584/HB63 EDUCATION: Annual report by commissioner of education on conflict resolution intervention programs.

Sponsors:

Sen. Gresham, Dolores , Rep. Brooks, Harry

Summary:

Changes from "February 15" to "the second Tuesday in January" the date by which the commissioner of education is to make the annual report on conflict resolution intervention programs. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note:

(Dated January 20, 2017) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Intro Dates:

H: 01/30/17

Senate Status:

02/09/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status:

02/01/17 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB646/HB977 EDUCATION: Eligibility for Tennessee Promise scholarship.

Sponsors:

Sen. Massey, Becky , Rep. Calfee, Kent

Summary:

Permits students enrolled in an apprentice training program to be eligible for the Tennessee Promise scholarship if they would otherwise meet all of the requirements for the scholarship.

Intro Dates:

S: 02/13/17, H: 02/09/17

Senate Status:

02/13/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status:

02/15/17 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB729/HB1196 EDUCATION: Tennessee Educators Protection Act.

Sponsors:

Sen. Gresham, Dolores , Rep. Rudd, Tim

Summary:

Specifies that an educational entity is not liable for taking any action related to the control, grading, suspension, expulsion, or discipline of a student unless that action violates a law, rule or school policy and that action occurs while the student is on the

property of the educational entity or under the supervision of the educational entity or its employee. Also specifies that an educational entity or employee is not liable for making a report consistent with federal or state law to the appropriate law enforcement authorities or to an official an educational entity if the person making the report has reasonable grounds to suspect the student to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, involved in the sale or distribution of drugs or alcohol or involved in another illegal activity. Defines "educational entity" to mean the state board of education, the department of education, and any other body, board, or agency that governs a public or private school, including LEAs and local boards of education. Creates other liability protections for educational entities and employees.

Intro Dates: S: 02/13/17, H: 02/09/17
Senate Status: 02/13/17 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.
House Status: 02/17/17 - Referred to House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

SB731/HB793 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: Provisions on director of schools salary.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores , Rep. Sparks, Mike
Summary: Prohibits a local board of education from approving a raise in salary or compensation for the director of schools that is higher than the salary of the governor.
Intro Dates: S: 02/13/17, H: 02/09/17
Senate Status: 02/13/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 02/14/17 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB865/HB1005 EDUCATION: State board of education to review defensive driver education courses every two years.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores , Rep. Holt, Andy
Summary: Requires the state board of education to review defensive driver education courses every two years for inclusion of any improvements. Current law specifies three years. Broadly captioned.
Intro Dates: S: 02/13/17, H: 02/09/17
Senate Status: 02/13/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 02/15/17 - Referred to House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

SB975/HB745 EDUCATION: Carrying of handguns by employees at public institutions of higher education.

Sponsors: Sen. Niceley, Frank , Rep. Powers, Dennis
Summary: Allows persons who are employed on a full-time basis and security guards who are employed on a part-time basis by a public institution of higher education and who are handgun carry permit holders to carry a handgun on campus.
Fiscal Note: (Dated February 17, 2017) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Intro Dates: S: 02/13/17, H: 02/09/17
Senate Status: 02/13/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 02/23/17 - Set for House Civil Justice Subcommittee 03/01/17.

SB1151/HB409 EDUCATION: Employees carrying concealed weapons on the property of schools in distressed rural counties.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Byrd, David
Summary: Clarifies that the curriculum required before an employee is permitted to carry a handgun on the property of schools in distressed rural counties may be adapted by the instructing law enforcement agency from an existing curriculum approved by POST.
Intro Dates: S: 02/13/17, H: 02/06/17
Senate Status: 02/13/17 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.
House Status: 02/08/17 - Referred to House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

SB1165/HB739 EDUCATION: Tennessee Student Free Expression Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Daniel, Martin
Summary: Specifies that institutions of higher learning respect the freedom of speech and promote climates of mutual concerns about civility. Allows for restriction of expression only in cases where federal law is violated, a genuine threat is given, or when another place and time are designated for a specific expression.
Intro Dates: S: 02/13/17, H: 02/09/17
Senate Status: 02/13/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 02/14/17 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB1197/HB310 EDUCATION: Creation of the Tennessee High-Quality Charter Schools Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Norris, Mark , Rep. Hawk, David
Summary: States that local board organizers will receive profit compensation according to how many charter schools they oversee and authorize to open. Incentives will be rewarded to the charter schools for certain expectations met. Part of Administration Package.
Fiscal Note: (Dated February 21, 2017) Increase State Expenditures - \$6,000,000/FY17-18 Increase Local Revenue - \$2,490,800/FY17-18 Exceeds \$2,490,800/FY18-19 and Subsequent Years Non-recurring funding in the amount of \$6,000,000 is included in the Governor's Recommended Budget Document for FY17-18 (page B-83) for the purpose of establishing the Public Charter Schools Facilities Fund.
Intro Dates: S: 02/13/17, H: 02/02/17
Senate Status: 02/13/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 02/23/17 - Set for House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee 03/01/17.

SB1218/HB531 EDUCATION: Establishes Tennessee reconnect grant.

Sponsors: Sen. Norris, Mark , Rep. Hawk, David

Summary: Authorizes the Tennessee reconnect grant, similar to the Tennessee promise scholarship and the Community College Reconnect Grant. Under present law, the promise scholarship is generally available to students who enroll in a higher education institution by the fall semester after completing high school or a high school equivalence. Also, under present law, the Community College Reconnect Grant is generally available to students who have earned at least 30 semester hours toward completion of an associate degree but have not been enrolled in college for at least 12 months. The grant created by this bill will be available to persons who have been out of school for extended periods of time and who may have never attended college. To be eligible for such grant, a student must not have already earned an associate or bachelor degree; must be compliant under Financial Aid requirements; must be a Tennessee resident and must complete FAFSA for each year this aid is received. The student must be an independent student; be admitted to an eligible post secondary institution and participate in a college success program through the Tennessee reconnect community initiative. Makes further requirements for continuance of eligibility year to year. Redefines nontraditional student enrollment to make requirement for public or independent post secondary institution. Error in numbering of this particular section, should be 29-4-902(28) instead of (27). Part of Administration Package.

Intro Dates: S: 02/09/17

Senate Status: 02/13/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status: 02/23/17 - Set for House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee 02/28/17.

SB1231/HB445 EDUCATION: Labor Education Alignment Program.

Sponsors: Sen. Norris, Mark , Rep. Gant, Ron

Summary: Establishes "work-based learning" credits for secondary or postsecondary curriculum which includes, but is not limited to, job shadowing, internships, clinicals, practicums, apprenticeships, co-ops, and industry-led service learning projects, is incorporated into coursework or related to a specific field of study, integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with the practical application and development of technical skills and proficiencies in a professional work setting, and may or may not include wages, salary, or other compensation to the student. The board of regents, in consultation with the higher education commission, shall coordinate curriculum development by the faculty and related resource materials to assist educators, employers, and students with workplace training and placement. The curriculum and materials shall define courses and work-based learning experiences that are necessary for each technical career field that may lead to a postsecondary credential. An employer who accepts a student in a college of applied technology or a community college to participate in work-based learning, shall not be liable for actions relating to that student unless the employer acted willfully or with gross negligence.

Intro Dates: S: 02/13/17

Senate Status: 02/23/17 - Set for Senate Education Committee 03/01/17.

House Status: 02/14/17 - Referred to House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

SJR70 EDUCATION: Encourages TEA Board of Directors to seek the repeal of National Education Association Resolution I-17.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores ,

Summary: Encourages Tennessee Education Association Board of Directors to seek the repeal of National Education Association Resolution I-17.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 8, 2017) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Intro Dates: S: 02/06/17

Senate Status: 02/23/17 - Set for Senate Education Committee 03/01/17.

SR12 EDUCATION: Repeal of National Education Association Resolution I-17.

Sponsors: Sen. Gresham, Dolores ,

Summary: Encourages Tennessee Education Association Board of Directors to seek the repeal of National Education Association Resolution I-17. -

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 13, 2017) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Intro Dates: S: 02/08/17

Senate Status: 02/09/17 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.