

HOUSE BILL 718

By Lollar

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15, Chapter 2, to designate "Agriculture Literacy Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Tennessee is one of the nation's leaders in agricultural production and benefits from an annual economic impact of more than \$78.9 billion generated from agriculture and forestry; and

WHEREAS, most students are several generations removed from the farm and do not realize the importance of agriculture, nor do they understand from where their food and fiber originate; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we educate students about the importance of agriculture to our state and our nation to ensure a safe and affordable food supply; and

WHEREAS, a study shows that elementary students can make the connection between the food we eat and the farms that produce it; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee agriculture industry is committed to recognizing and celebrating the contributions of agriculture to our everyday lives, sharing the message of how agriculture contributes to our strong economy through the production of safe, abundant, and affordable food and fiber products, renewable energy, and job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom strives to increase the agricultural literacy of all Tennesseans to promote an efficient, productive, and environmentally beneficial food, fiber, and renewable fuel system; and

WHEREAS, reading is an important skill that influences success in school and in life, and Agriculture Literacy Week in Tennessee promotes reading accurate agriculture books and sparks discussion about the importance of Tennessee agriculture; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

The week that includes the third Thursday in November each year shall be designated "Agriculture Literacy Week" in Tennessee, to be proclaimed as such by the governor, to promote agricultural literacy and the need to educate students about the importance of agriculture to our state and our nation. This week shall not be a legal holiday as defined in § 15-1-101.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.