

HOUSE BILL 984

By Hazlewood

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to water access in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) A local board of education or the governing body of a public charter school shall incorporate water bottle filling stations as part of any new construction of a school building; major renovation of a school building in which the work area for any additions to, or alterations of, the existing school building exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the aggregate area of the school building; or substantial repair, replacement, or upgrading of a school building's plumbing system or plumbing fixtures.

(b) A local board of education or the governing body of a public charter school that incorporates water bottle filling stations into a school building pursuant to subsection (a) shall place at least one (1) water bottle filling station into a school building for each two hundred (200) or fewer students; on each floor of the school building; in each wing of the school building; in each food service area; and in close proximity to gymnasiums, outdoor learning and activity areas, playgrounds, and athletic facilities.

(c) Water bottle filling stations may be integrated into water fountains.

(d) A local board of education or the governing body of a public charter school that incorporates a water bottle filling station into a public school building:

- (1) Must regularly clean and maintain the water bottle filling station; and
- (2) Shall not prohibit students from bringing a clear water bottle to school.

(e) As used in this section, "water bottle filling station" means a water dispenser accessible to students in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.) that filters, cools, and dispenses clean drinking water directly into a bottle.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.