

HOUSE BILL 1405

By Johnson G

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-1-405; Section 4-1-412 and Title 49, relative to 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 as a new section.

(a) The general assembly recognizes that LEAs have selected mascots to represent their schools, and that LEAs may wish to change such mascots to honor and respect certain persons or cultures and their contributions to the LEA or to this state, or to no longer honor or recognize certain persons in the mascots of their schools.

(b) Notwithstanding § 4-1-412, the local board of education of an LEA has the sole authority to select mascots of the LEA's schools. A state agency shall not impair or otherwise interfere with a local board of education's authority to select the mascots of the LEA's schools.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 13, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The general assembly recognizes that public charter schools have selected mascots to represent their school, and that public charter schools may wish to change such mascots to honor and respect certain persons or cultures and their contributions to the public charter school or to this state, or to no longer honor or recognize certain persons in the mascots of their schools.

(b) Notwithstanding § 4-1-412, the governing body of a public charter school has the sole authority to select a mascot for the public charter school. A state agency shall

not impair or otherwise interfere with a governing body of a public charter school's authority to select the mascot of the public charter school.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.