



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 329

HOUSE BILL NO. 1406

By Representatives Powell, Jernigan, Clemmons, Freeman, Hardaway

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1419

By Senator Dickerson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7; Title 9; Title 13; Title 24; Title 37; Title 40; Title 49; Title 50; Title 55; Title 60; Title 65 and Title 71, relative to hearing.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-406(o)(1), is amended by deleting the language "hearing-impaired child" wherever it appears and substituting instead the language "child who is deaf or hard of hearing".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 65-5-109(u), is amended by deleting the language "the hearing impaired" and substituting instead the language "individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-4-2101(1)(A)(ii), is amended by deleting the language "a chronic hearing impairment" and substituting instead the language "chronic hearing loss".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-4-2101(1)(A)(iii), is amended by deleting the word "impairments" and substituting instead the language "vision and hearing loss".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-4-2101(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(2) A "deaf person" means a person whose hearing loss is total or whose hearing loss, with or without amplification, is so significant that the primary means of receiving spoken language is through visual input, including, but not limited to, speechreading, sign language, finger spelling, or writing; and

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-107(a)(26)(A), is amended by deleting the language "hearing impaired recipients" and substituting instead the language "recipients who are deaf or hard of hearing".


SECTION 7. The heading to a section in the code is for reference purposes only and does not constitute a part of the law. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to delete the language "hearing impaired" wherever it appears in a heading in any compilation or publication of the code and replace it with "deaf or hard of hearing".

SECTION 8. The use of the term "deaf or hard of hearing" in this act shall not be construed to infringe on any right or protection, or absolve any entity of its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.), or any other relevant law.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 22, 2019



GLEN CASADA, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 8th day of May 2019



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR