



# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 571

HOUSE BILL NO. 1534

By Representatives Weaver, Reedy, Todd, Moody, Powers

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 653

By Senator Bowling

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to licensure.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-108(d), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(3)

(A) The state board of education shall approve a process for an LEA, or for two (2) or more LEAs working together, to establish an LEA teacher training program for the purpose of recommending eligible educators for endorsements. An educator must possess an active Tennessee professional teaching license and must be employed by an LEA participating in the program to be eligible to participate in a program established under this subdivision (d)(3).

(B) The state board shall establish the minimum requirements for LEA teacher training programs; provided, that the minimum requirements must allow eligible educators to add endorsement areas to the educator's license.

(C) LEA teacher training programs established under this subdivision (d)(3) must provide documentation to the department of education certifying that the eligible educator has met the requirements established by the state board for the endorsement before the endorsement is added to the eligible educator's license.

(D) The state board shall not require an eligible educator seeking an endorsement through an LEA teacher training program to enroll in a teacher preparation program in order to receive the endorsement. This subdivision (d)(3) does not prohibit an LEA teacher training program from partnering with a teacher preparation program approved by the state board.

(E) To ensure the quality of an educator that receives an endorsement under this subdivision (d)(3), the state board shall require the eligible educator to take an assessment pursuant to the state board's rules and policies.

(F) The department of education shall create a process for the review of LEA teacher training programs established under this subdivision (d)(3) pursuant to the state board's rules and policies.

SECTION 2. The state board of education is authorized to promulgate rules necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 3. Section 2 of this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. All other sections of this act take effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1534

PASSED: May 5, 2021



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021

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BILL LEE, GOVERNOR



# BILL LEE

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF TENNESSEE

May 26, 2021

The Honorable Cameron Sexton  
Speaker, Tennessee House of Representatives  
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N., Suite 600  
Nashville, TN 37243

The Honorable Randy McNally  
Lieutenant Governor  
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N., Suite 700  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Speaker Sexton and Lieutenant Governor McNally:

I am writing to inform you that I am returning HB1534/SB653 to become law without my signature. As our state faces a teacher shortage, we support alternative pathways to teacher licensure. These efforts cut back red tape and ensure more qualified professionals can teach our students. I am not signing the bill solely because of a cost discrepancy.

Unfortunately, this legislation incurs a cost that was not accounted for by Fiscal Review during the legislative process. Fiscal Review adjusted the fiscal note downward from several hundred thousand dollars to "not significant." At the end of the legislative session, our team provided Fiscal Review with evidence of the costs associated with implementation and asked for correction.

The requested correction was not made, and the lack of adequate funding to support this legislation is something that will need to be addressed in the budget process in the year ahead in order to ensure proper implementation.

With your continued partnership, we have once again created and enacted a balanced budget that maintains Tennessee's position as a leader in fiscal responsibility. We must be vigilant about thoroughly accounting for costs in the fiscal review process to ensure we maintain that fiscal prudence.

Our team at the Department of Education is available to discuss the cost assumptions on this matter at your convenience. We will also communicate our concerns with the bill sponsors and relevant committee chairs.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this fiscal matter and I look forward to supporting more qualified teachers in our state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Bill Lee