

HOUSE BILL 1537

By McCormick

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, Part 60, relative to student
assessment.

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Student Assessment Transparency Act".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6001, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and substituting instead the following language:

(b)

(1) As a strategy for assessing student readiness for postsecondary education, every public school student shall take an examination at grade eleven (11). This assessment shall be approved by the commissioner of education and provide information to assist in developing interventions for the purpose of improving student preparation for postsecondary achievement.

(2) Subject to available appropriations each year, each student participating in the assessment pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) shall have the opportunity to retake the assessment one (1) additional time prior to graduation.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6007, is amended by adding the following language as subsection (c):

(1) An LEA shall include, with the information required to be posted under subsection (b), a statement that informs parents how they can access the items on the student's state-required summative standardized assessments and the student's answers. An LEA shall also publicly provide this information to parents by the other

methods of dissemination under subsection (b) that it has chosen or that are required, including publication in each school's student handbook or other standard policy guidebook that contains the policies and procedures of the school.

(2) The department shall create guidelines for LEAs on the implementation of this section for the purposes of increasing assessment transparency. The guidelines shall include provisions related to LEA communication about the purpose of each locally required standardized assessment; how each assessment complements and enhances student instruction and learning; and how each assessment serves a purpose distinct from required state assessments.

(3) By September 1 of every year, each LEA shall submit to the department documentation of compliance with the provisions of this section in the manner prescribed by the commissioner.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the department of education shall provide LEAs with access to their students' Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) and end-of-course assessment items and the students' answers on such assessments.

(b) Upon request, LEAs shall provide a student and the student's parents with access to the student's Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) and end-of-course assessment items and the student's answers on such assessments.

(c) The release of assessment information pursuant to this section shall not include any items required by the department to validate future administrations of the assessments; items that are being field tested for future administrations of the assessments; or passages, content, or related items if the release would be in violation of copyright infringement laws.

(d) A teacher shall have access to the teacher's students' information identified in subsection (a) to assist the teacher in determining the students' mastery of state

standards; to aid in planning instruction and support for the students' learning needs; and to improve the teacher's instruction.

(e) As used in this section, "parent" means the parent, guardian, or person who has custody of the child, or the individual who has caregiving authority under § 49-6-3001.

(f) The release of information pursuant to this section shall comply with the "Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act" codified in title 49, chapter 1, part 7.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the department of education shall annually release the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) and end-of-course state assessment blueprints and scoring methodology to LEAs and post such information to the department's web site.

(b) In establishing testing windows for state assessments, the department of education shall provide maximum flexibility to LEAs and issue guidance related to testing preparation and logistics to ensure the entire school year continues to be utilized for instruction. Such guidance shall focus on daily quality instruction and engaged learning as the most effective test preparation and seek to minimize time spent on preparation for specific tests.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.