

HOUSE BILL 1998

By Brooks H

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 7, Part 5 and Title 49, relative to confidential records.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 10-7-503(f), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety.

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

All records, employment applications, credentials, and similar documents obtained by any person in conjunction with an employment search for a director of schools or any chief public administrative officer shall be treated as confidential and shall not be open for public inspection, if the records could be used to identify a candidate for the position; provided, however, that after the local board of education has selected candidates as finalists for a position of director of schools or any chief public administrative officer, which shall occur no later than fifteen (15) calendar days before the final vote of the local board of education to appoint or elect a person to fill the position, records relating exclusively to the candidates selected as finalists shall not be confidential and shall be open for public inspection, except for a record otherwise confidential under state or federal law. This section shall not apply to information relating to a candidate who did not expressly request that the candidate's information be kept confidential.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-154(b)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(1) "Chief executive officer of a public institution of higher education" includes:

(A) The president of the University of Tennessee system;

(B) The chancellor of the state board of regents;

(C) A chancellor of a University of Tennessee campus or institute;

(D) A president or director of a locally governed state university or

institution;

(E) A president of a community college; and

(F) A president of a Tennessee college of applied technology.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.