

HOUSE BILL 2174

By Kumar

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to student religious freedom.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1026(c), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (c)(1) and adding the following as new subdivisions:

(2) The department of education shall make available on its website the Bible course curriculums developed by LEAs that have been approved by the department and that are available for adoption by another LEA pursuant to subdivision (c)(1).

(3) The department shall notify each LEA in writing no later than July 1 of each year that the LEA may provide an elective state-funded course consisting of a nonsectarian, nonreligious academic study of the Bible in accordance with this section.

The department's notice shall:

(A) Identify each LEA that has developed a Bible course curriculum that has been approved by the department and that is available for adoption by another LEA pursuant to subdivision (c)(1);

(B) Inform each LEA that the Bible course curriculum, developed by an LEA identified in the notice are available for adoption by another LEA without further approval by the department, and that each of the approved curriculums may be accessed from the department's website; and

(C) Inform each LEA that it may:

(i) Adopt its own Bible course curriculum if the curriculum is approved as a special course according to the rules of the state board of education; or

(ii) Adopt any of the Bible course curriculums developed by any LEA identified in the department's notice.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.