



# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 775

HOUSE BILL NO. 2174

By Representatives Kumar, Van Huss, Matthew Hill, Reedy, DeBerry, Lamberth, Dawn White, Howell, Holt, Kevin Brooks, Sargent, Cameron Sexton, Williams, Curcio, McCormick, Lynn, Sherrell, Matlock, Tillis, Crawford, Windle, Weaver, Faison, Zachary, Timothy Hill, Terry, Powers, Jerry Sexton, Byrd, Gant

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2124

By Senators Roberts, Bailey, Stevens

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:

(A) A list identifying 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) All Bible course curricula developed by LEAs that have been approved by the department and that are available for adoption by another LEA pursuant to subdivision (c)(1);

(C) The academic standards for a Bible course that have been approved by the state board of education under subsection (a); and

(D) Instructions on how an LEA may submit its own Bible course curriculum for approval.

(3) The state board of education shall include on its list of approved high school courses the elective Bible course developed pursuant to subsection (a).

(4) The department shall notify each LEA in writing, no later than July 1 of each year, of the LEA's ability to offer an elective state-funded Bible course consisting of a nonsectarian, nonreligious academic study of the Bible in accordance with this section, and the ability of each LEA to develop its own Bible course curriculum.

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

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PASSED: April 4, 2018

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
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RANDY MCNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR