

HOUSE BILL 2272

By Pitts

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37;
Title 49; Title 63 and Title 68, Chapter 1, relative to
social workers.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a)

(1) Each LEA shall employ one (1) licensed social worker in each school that conducts classes in any grade from kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) in accordance with this subsection (a).

(2) Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, and in each school year thereafter, an LEA shall employ one (1) licensed social worker in each school that serves any grade from kindergarten through grade five (K-5).

(3) Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, and in each school year thereafter, an LEA shall employ one (1) licensed social worker in each school that serves any grade from six through eight (6-8).

(4) Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, and in each school year thereafter, an LEA shall employ one (1) licensed social worker in each school that serves any grade from nine through twelve (9-12).

(5) Nothing in this subsection (a) requires an LEA to employ more than one (1) licensed social worker in any one (1) school.

(b) Licensed social workers employed by an LEA pursuant to this section must:

(1) Possess an active license, in good standing, to practice baccalaureate social work or licensed master's social work in accordance with the requirements of §§ 63-23-102 and 63-23-103 and otherwise be in compliance with title 63, chapter 23 and any rules promulgated by the board of social worker licensure;

(2) Comply with the employment application and criminal history records check requirements of §§ 49-5-406 and 49-5-413; and

(3) Comply with all applicable rules, policies, and guidelines adopted by the LEA's local board of education, the state board of education, the department of education, the board of social worker licensure, and the department of health.

(c) The state board of education, in consultation with the board of social worker licensure and the department of health, is authorized to:

(1) Establish a school social worker program;

(2) Adopt policies and guidelines regarding the qualifications, standards, and requirements for licensed social workers employed by an LEA; and

(3) Promulgate rules necessary to effectuate this section in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

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