

HOUSE BILL 2468

By Lamberth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to education.

WHEREAS, publicly supported educational freedom has a long history in Tennessee, with the Hope Scholarship providing funding that follows students to attend the public or private institution of their choice; and

WHEREAS, parents should be free to choose the school that best fits the educational needs of their specific child; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has worked to expand choice through the successful ESA pilot program that is now helping primarily underserved, minority students in three of the State's largest school districts with 99% parent satisfaction with the program; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee recently invested a record \$1 billion in public education to fund students' unique needs while giving public school teachers the largest pay raise in State history; and

WHEREAS, states across the country are empowering parents with the freedom to choose the right education for their child and provide parents a say in where their taxpayer dollars are spent; now, therefore,

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

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

49-6-3501. Report and recommendations regarding school choice programs.

(a) The department of education shall study the school choice programs available in other states and submit a report of the department's findings at the

conclusion of the study to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the speaker of the senate no later than January 1, 2025.

(b) The report required in subsection (a) must include a summary of the benefits such programs provide to participating students and families; best practices learned from other states' implementation of their respective school choice programs; and any legislative recommendations for consideration by the general assembly.

SECTION 2. The headings to sections, parts, and chapters in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.