

HOUSE BILL 2629

By Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 4; Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 1; Title 63, Chapter 23; Title 63, Chapter 6, Part 2; Title 63, Chapter 7, Part 1 and Title 63, Chapter 9, relative to child safety training.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) By January 1, 2019, the department shall promulgate rules to include instructional guidelines for child safety training programs for teachers. The programs shall train the teachers on the common signs of child abuse and child sexual abuse, how to identify children at risk of abuse or sexual abuse, and the reporting requirements of this part. The instructional guidelines shall be used by the department to approve in-service programs and providers providing child safety training programs, which shall reflect the best practices for identifying and reporting child abuse and child sexual abuse as appropriate for teachers.

(b) After July 1, 2019, the child safety training program developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall be included in the in-service training for teachers required by § 49-6-3004 and shall be required prior to the issuance of a license or licensure renewal.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prevent the department of education from requiring that licensed teachers complete a certain course or type of course as part of the required in-service training. No licensed teacher shall receive credit for more than one (1) hour of in-service training per year based on having completed a child safety training program.

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