

HOUSE BILL 2669

By Hardaway

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

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1204, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection:

(c)

(1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the department of education shall create a voucher program to increase availability of driver education courses to students attending Title I schools.

(2) The department shall create an application process for students to apply for the voucher. Students applying for a voucher must attend a Title I school and must have a valid learner permit or intermediate driver license.

(3) The department may award vouchers on a first-come, first-served basis. The department shall determine which driver education facilities and courses a student may attend and shall submit funds awarded directly to a driver education facility. Students receiving a voucher must enroll in a driver education course, as determined by the department, within three (3) months of receiving the voucher or the student forfeits use of the voucher.

(4) Students may be awarded only one (1) voucher under this subsection (c).

(5) The office of research and accountability (OREA) in the office of the comptroller of the treasury, with the assistance of the department of education, shall study the voucher program created pursuant to this subsection and shall

report on the overall effectiveness of the voucher program. OREA shall make findings as to whether the voucher program is effective in increasing student readiness to drive, as well as report on how many students started the driver education course and how many completed the driver education course. OREA shall make recommendations as to the potential of expanding the voucher program and shall submit its report to the education committee of the senate and the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives by February 1, 2021.

SECTION 2. This act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds, and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. The state board of education is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this act. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.