

HOUSE BILL 2947

By Coley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2; Title 49, Chapter 3; Title 49, Chapter 5; Title 49, Chapter 6 and Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, relative to rigorous high school instructional programs.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-7-1__.

(a)

(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2), each public institution of higher education that offers freshman-level courses shall adopt and implement a policy to grant at least twenty-four (24) semester credit hours or equivalent course credit in appropriate subject areas to entering freshmen for successful completion of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

(2) An institution may grant fewer than twenty-four (24) semester credit hours, if a student received a score of less than four (4) on an examination administered as part of the diploma program. The institution may grant fewer credit hours only with respect to courses that are substantially related to the subject of that examination.

(b) Each institutional policy shall:

(1) Establish the institution's conditions for granting course credit, including the minimum required scores on the examinations for courses constituting the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme; and

(2) Identify the specific course credit or other academic requirements of the institution, including the number of semester credit hours or other course credit that the institution shall grant to a student who successfully completes the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The determinations of specific course credit or other academic requirements of each institution shall be based on the correlations identified under subsection (e).

(c) Each public institution of higher education shall submit the institution's policy adopted under this section to the Tennessee higher education commission and shall include a copy of the policy with the institution's undergraduate student application materials, including any application materials available on the institution's Intranet web site.

(d) On request of an applicant for admission as an entering freshman, a public institution of higher education, based on the information provided by the applicant, shall determine and notify the applicant regarding:

(1) The amount and type of any course credit that shall be granted to the applicant under the policy; and

(2) Any other academic requirement that the applicant satisfies under the policy.

(e) The Tennessee higher education commission, in consultation with the state board of education and the department of education, shall:

(1) Identify correlations between the subject matter and content of courses offered by each public institution of higher education and the subject matter and content of courses and examinations in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme; and

(2) Make such information available on the Tennessee higher education commission's web site.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-1-2__.

(a) The state board of education, in consultation with the commissioner of education, shall establish the Tennessee International Baccalaureate Incentive Program to recognize and reward schools and school systems that offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and demonstrate success in achieving the educational goals of the program. The Tennessee International Baccalaureate Incentive Program shall be comprised of a state incentive program and local incentive programs. The board shall create the state incentive program and shall provide guidelines for school districts with the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme that desire to create local incentive programs.

(b) Incentive programs shall provide financial bonuses, including, but not limited to, equipment grants for schools or school systems and monetary awards to schools or school systems, based on the number of students who receive a score of four (4) or more on an International Baccalaureate examination.

(c)

(1) After establishment, the state incentive program shall be administered by the department of education. Any school or school system desiring to receive a state award shall make application in the form, manner and time prescribed by the department.

(2) The department of education shall review and approve any local incentive program before such program is instituted.

(d)

(1) The principal of each school participating in the state or a local incentive program shall convene, at least annually, a five-member team to include at least three (3) teachers, one (1) of whom shall be participating in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and one (1) of whom shall be teaching students preparing for participation in the diploma program.

(2) The team shall determine the use of any funds awarded under this section pursuant to the terms or guidelines of the program as established by the state board.

(e) A school or school system shall use awards granted under the Tennessee International Baccalaureate Incentive Program for academic enhancement purposes. Awards may not be used for any purpose related to athletics.

(f) Awards in this incentive program, either state or local, may be funded from state or local funds or by donations or grants from individuals or from private corporations, associations or other artificial entities, both nonprofit and for profit. The commissioner or a school district may solicit and receive grants and donations for making awards under this section. Any funds specifically appropriated by the general assembly or a local governmental body for this incentive program shall be used solely for the purposes of the program.

(g) There is created within the state treasury an account to be administered by the department of education and to be known as the Tennessee International Baccalaureate Incentive account. Moneys donated to the state by private entities for the purposes of the state incentive program shall be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be available to the department of education pursuant to the provisions of the state incentive program to make grants to recognize and reward schools and

school systems that demonstrate success in achieving the educational goals of the diploma program. Moneys in the account shall be invested by the state treasurer pursuant to title 9, chapter 4, part 6 for the sole benefit of the account. All earnings attributable to such investments shall be credited to the account. Amounts remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the state general fund, but shall be carried forward until expended for the purposes stated in this section.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of state funds and no state funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010, the public welfare requiring it.