

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 90

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to commemorate National Healthy Schools Day.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Education has raised expectations for student and teacher safety by publicly posting a list of less toxic products and alternatives for cleaning and maintenance on their website; and

WHEREAS, it has been recognized in peer-reviewed studies that children are more susceptible to poor indoor air quality and hazardous substances and that even small exposures via skin, inhalation, or ingestion, if occurring during critical “windows” of child development, could result in permanent adverse health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, it has been scientifically demonstrated that improving school Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) can improve student academic performance, increase average daily attendance, and result in less incidental flare-ups of preexisting and underlying medical conditions, such as asthma, which is still a leading cause of student and teacher absenteeism, and Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS), a serious condition that is increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, this serves to remind us that Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-121, encourages each school district to implement an IAQ inspection and evaluation program for its facilities and urges local school boards to implement IAQ “Tools for Schools,” a free online program, for use in all public schools; and

WHEREAS, National Healthy Schools Week, which begins on April 4, 2017, is sponsored by the Healthy Schools Network of the American Public Health Association, the Council of Educational Facility Planners International, and here in Tennessee by the grassroots group Partners for Students Safety; and

WHEREAS, nationally more than twenty organizations and government agencies observe National Healthy Schools Week and National Healthy Schools Day annually to help raise awareness of the need for healthy indoor and outdoor environments and the need to reduce exposures to pollution hazards at schools and protect students' health; and

WHEREAS, this State is aware and wants to improve children's health by providing safe learning environments and advocating that every school district take the necessary steps to raise local awareness and implement supportive school policies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the members and organizations of the Healthy Schools Network as they commemorate National Healthy Schools Day on April 4, 2017, and invite all citizens and school districts to join in this worthy observance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.