

SENATE BILL 14

By Tracy

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to the teacher's bill of rights.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) For purposes of this section, "educator" means any teacher, principal, supervisor or other individual required by law to hold a valid license of qualification for employment in the public schools of this state.

(b) An educator has the right to:

(1) Act in a manner consistent with the educator's own conscience as long as the educator does not:

(A) Attempt to proselytize students in the classroom;

(B) Disrupt the educational process; or

(C) Act as a potential threat to student safety;

(2) Report any errant, offensive, or abusive content or behavior of students to school officials or appropriate agencies;

(3) Provide students with a classroom and school in which the educators, students, the property of the educator and students, and peers will be safe;

(4) Defend themselves and their students from physical violence or physical harm pursuant to § 49-6-4008;

(5) Share information regarding a student's educational experience, health, or safety with the student's parent or legal guardian unless otherwise

prohibited by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA),
codified in 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, or § 10-7-504; and

(6) Review all materials brought into the educator's classroom or utilized
with their students, nor shall the educator be expected to waive the rights in this
subdivision (b)(6) for any reason.

(c) An educator shall not be:

(1) Required to spend the educator's personal money to appropriately
equip a classroom;

(2) Evaluated under § 49-1-302 by professionals who do not have the
same subject matter expertise as the educator being evaluated;

(3) Evaluated under § 49-1-302 based on the performance of students
whom the educator has never taught; or

(4) Forced to relocate to a different school based solely on test scores
from state mandated assessments.

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