

SENATE BILL 59

By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 5, Part 56, relative to teacher training.

WHEREAS, leading education experts agree that understanding the brain's learning systems should be a prerequisite for educators at all levels as it is vitally important that every teacher comprehend the basics of how people learn; and

WHEREAS, understanding the brain, its functions and its effects on the classroom is not a required component within most teacher preparation programs but its inclusion would give teachers the opportunity to incorporate appropriate teaching methods for the variety of learners found within each classroom setting and thus increase student attainment; and

WHEREAS, neuroscience research suggests that learning outcomes are not solely determined by the environment. Biological factors play an important role in accounting for differences in learning ability between individuals; and

WHEREAS, by considering biological factors, research has advanced the understanding of specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia and dyscalculia. Likewise, neuroscience is uncovering why certain types of learning are more rewarding than others; and

WHEREAS, some insights from neuroscience are relevant for the development and use of adaptive digital technologies. These technologies have the potential to create more learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, and throughout life; and

WHEREAS, the emerging field of educational neuroscience presents opportunities as well as challenges for education. It provides means to develop a common language and bridge the gulf between educators, psychologists and neuroscientists; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important to the children of the State of Tennessee that neuroscience be part of teacher training; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 56, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-5-56\_\_\_. Teacher training programs at public institutions of higher education are authorized and encouraged to offer coursework on neurological or brain science research.

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