

SENATE BILL 270

By Kelsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 10; Title 49, Chapter 3 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to funding for prekindergarten programs for children with disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-107(a), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (a)(1) and adding the following new subdivision (a)(2):

(A) Preschool programs operated by an LEA for children with disabilities shall be subject to annual appropriations.

(B) As used in this section, "children with disabilities" means children three (3) to five (5) years of age with intellectual disability; hearing impairments, including deafness; speech or language impairments; visual impairments, including blindness; emotional disturbance; orthopedic impairments; autism; traumatic brain injury; other health impairments; specific learning disability; developmental delay; functional delay; or the intellectually gifted.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-107(b), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

The commissioner of education shall annually recommend a funding amount per classroom for those classrooms established under §§ 49-6-103 - 49-6-110 and for preschool classrooms for children with disabilities pursuant to subdivision (a)(2). The commissioner shall take into account the necessary components required to operate such classrooms and, to the extent such components are also reflected in the Basic

Education Program (BEP) funding formula, shall include the same costs per component in recommending the amount of funding per classroom.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.