

SENATE BILL 491

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 13, relative to charter schools.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-106(a)(1)(E), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(E) Students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq.;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-113(d), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-106(b)(1)(B), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(B) Upon approval of a charter application, the sponsor shall authorize a governing body to operate the public charter school. A public charter school shall be operated by a not-for-profit organization that is organized for educational purposes and that is exempt from federal taxation under § 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. If the sponsor of a charter application is a post-secondary institution accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, then the institution need not form a separate not-for-profit organization to be the governing body of the school; provided, that the governing body includes at least one (1) parent representative as required under the definition of "governing body" in § 49-13-104. No charter shall be granted to a for-profit corporation.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-106(b)(1)(C), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-106(b)(2)(D), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-106(a), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivision (2):

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, charter schools may be formed that are devoted exclusively to the re-enrollment of high school students who have dropped out of school.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-108, is further amended by deleting the first sentence of subdivision (2) in its entirety.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-109, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 13, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated sections:

49-13-____.

(a) Any teacher teaching in a public charter school shall be eligible to attend inservice training or other teacher training provided by the LEA in which the charter school is located; provided, that such training is conducted for teachers employed by the LEA who are teaching the same grade or subject that the charter school teacher is teaching.

(b) A principal of a public charter school shall be eligible to attend principal inservice training or other principal training and system-wide leadership meetings provided by the LEA in which the charter school is located; provided, that such training or meetings are conducted for principals employed by the LEA in schools with grades identical or similar in range to that of the charter school.

49-13-____. If a public charter school is established and approved to serve students who are assigned to, or were previously enrolled in, a public school failing to make adequate yearly progress pursuant to § 49-13-106(a)(1)(B) or in a public school converted to a charter school, then, notwithstanding any change in status of the public school, the charter school shall be permitted to continue to operate and draw students from an area at least as large as the zone from which the public school could enroll students at the time at which the charter school was formed.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.