

SENATE BILL 623

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to professional development for  
kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12)  
teachers.

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

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

(a) To encourage public school teachers to develop the professional skills  
necessary to address the educational needs of English language learners:

(1)

(A) The state board of education shall provide professional  
development credit to a teacher who successfully completes a foreign  
language course that will assist the teacher in educating students for  
whom English is a second language. The state board of education shall  
apply the professional development credit earned by a teacher under this  
subdivision (a)(1)(A) toward the professional development credits  
required for the teacher to advance or renew a license. The state board  
of education shall develop policies to govern the:

(i) Approved foreign language courses that, if successfully  
completed by a teacher, qualify the teacher to receive professional  
development credit;

(ii) Timeline and documentation required for a teacher:

(a) To notify the state board of education of the teacher's intent to receive professional development credit under this subdivision (a)(1)(A); and

(b) To establish the teacher's successful completion of an approved foreign language course; and

(iii) Measures of a teacher's successful completion of an approved foreign language course that the teacher must achieve in order to receive professional development credit. The measures of successful completion required under this subdivision (a)(1)(A)(iii) must include a letter from the teacher's principal, director of schools, or charter school leader recommending that the teacher receive professional development credit for the teacher's successful completion of an approved foreign language course.

(B) The state board of education shall not limit the number of teachers who are eligible to receive professional development credit for successfully completing an approved foreign language course; or give preference to one (1) foreign language course provider over another, if the foreign language courses offered are substantially similar.

(2)

(A) Local boards of education and charter school governing bodies may grant one (1) day of in-service credit to a teacher who successfully completes a foreign language course approved by the state board of education pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(A). If a local board of education or charter school governing body elects to grant in-service credit to teachers who successfully complete an approved foreign

language course, then the local board of education or charter school governing body shall adopt policies governing the:

(i) Timeline and documentation required for a teacher:

(a) To notify the teacher's principal, director of schools, or charter school leader of the teacher's intent to receive in-service credit under this subdivision (a)(2)(A); and

(b) To establish the teacher's successful completion of an approved foreign language course; and

(ii) Measures of a teacher's successful completion of an approved foreign language course that the teacher must achieve in order to receive in-service credit. The measures of successful completion required under this subdivision (a)(2)(A)(ii) must include a letter from the teacher's principal, director of schools, or charter school leader recommending that the teacher receive in-service credit for the teacher's successful completion of an approved foreign language course.

(B) The local board of education or charter school governing body shall not limit the number of teachers who are eligible to receive in-service credit for successfully completing an approved foreign language course.

(b)

(1) The state board of education shall develop policies to allow a teacher with an active endorsement in one (1) or more of the foreign languages for which the board has approved a foreign language course under subdivision (a)(1)(A) to

teach a course in that foreign language to other teachers interested in earning the professional development credit under subdivision (a)(1)(A) or the in-service credit under subdivision (a)(2)(A).

(2) The state board of education must approve each course provided in accordance with the state board of education's policies under subdivision (b)(1) as an approved foreign language course for purposes of subdivision (a)(1)(A).

(3) A teacher who teaches a foreign language course approved by the state board of education under this subsection (b) is eligible to receive additional professional development credit for teaching the course.

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