

SENATE BILL 712

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to student promotion.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 31, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A student shall not be promoted to the first grade unless the student:

(1) Is seven (7) years of age or older on or before August 15; or

(2) Is proficient in the kindergarten academic standards, as evidenced by the student's performance on the first-grade entry assessment administered to the student.

(b) Notwithstanding § 49-6-6002(a):

(1) The department of education shall create a first-grade entry assessment to determine whether a student is prepared to succeed in the first grade based upon the student's knowledge of the kindergarten academic standards; and

(2) Each LEA and public charter school, if applicable, shall administer a first-grade entry assessment developed by the department, or a first-grade entry assessment developed by the LEA or public charter school that is approved by the state board of education, to each kindergarten student enrolled in the LEA or public charter school.

SECTION 2. For purposes of creating the first-grade entry assessment, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes

effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2024-2025 school year and each school year thereafter.