



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 229

HOUSE BILL NO. 890

By Representatives Leatherwood, White

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1223

By Senator Rose

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to alternative education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3402(c)(1), is amended by deleting subdivision (C) and substituting instead the following:

(C)

(i) Notwithstanding subdivision (c)(1)(A), a director of schools, or a director's designee, is not required to assign a student in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who has been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled from the regular school program for an offense of violence or threatened violence, or an offense that threatened the safety of persons attending or assigned to the student's school, to an alternative school or alternative program if the alternative school or alternative program is located on the same grounds as the regular school program from which the student was suspended or expelled.

(ii) This subdivision (c)(1)(C) does not prohibit a director of schools, or a director's designee, from assigning a student who has been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled from the regular school program for an offense of violence or threatened violence, or an offense that threatened the safety of persons attending or assigned to the student's school, to an alternative school or alternative program. The director of schools, or the director's designee, shall determine whether to assign a student to an alternative school or alternative program under this subdivision (c)(1)(C) on a case-by-case basis.

(D) Attendance in an alternative school or alternative program is voluntary for students in grades one through six (1-6) who have been suspended or expelled from the regular school program unless the local board of education adopts a policy mandating attendance in either instance.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to students suspended or expelled on or after that date.

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PASSED: April 7, 2021



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 22nd day of April 2021



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR