

SENATE BILL 1260

By Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to K-12 education.

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

SECTION 1. There is established a two-year pilot project for the purposes of developing a model that can be replicated by LEAs statewide to deliver comprehensive school safety and mental health services.

SECTION 2. The pilot project shall be established in three (3) LEAs, with one (1) in each grand division of the state. In implementing the pilot project, the department of education shall select as the leader of the pilot project one (1) LEA that has developed a program of providing school safety and mental health services to its students and schools that encompasses goals of the pilot project under Section 3. The department shall choose the other two (2) LEA participants in the pilot project from LEAs that are willing to develop a school safety and mental health services program or to improve an existing program. The leader of the pilot project shall commit to assisting the other two (2) LEAs with their programs through information and advice. The department of education shall provide assistance to all members of the pilot project.

SECTION 3. The goals of the pilot project, at a minimum, shall be to promote the following:

(1) Partnership by the LEAs with law enforcement agencies, juvenile courts, and mental health providers to implement an integrated, comprehensive, community-wide plan designed to create a safe, respectful, and drug and violence-free school environment;

(2) A balanced curriculum that encourages students to make positive life choices with respect to alcohol, drugs, attendance, and conflict resolution along with mentoring students to encourage such positive life choices;

(3) Pro-social skills and healthy childhood development in the LEA's students;

(4) Increased counseling and other student support in every school;

(5) Collaborative efforts between LEAs and its partners to offer parenting skills and employability skills classes; and

(6) Family engagement with students, schools and the LEAs.

SECTION 4. Each LEA shall report its findings and conclusions concerning the efficacy of the project and any recommendations to the department of education at the conclusion of the pilot period. The department shall compile and report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations concerning the pilot project to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives and to the state board of education no later than October 1, 2015.

SECTION 5. The pilot project shall begin with the 2013-2014 school year.

SECTION 6. Implementation of the provisions of this act shall be contingent on and subject to funding being specifically provided for such purpose within the general appropriations act.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.