SENATE BILL 1465

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to response to instruction and intervention.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) An LEA or public charter school that serves students in grade six (6) shall determine the appropriate number of universal screeners to be administered to students in grade six (6) for purposes of the response to instruction and intervention (RTI²) framework developed by the department of education. An LEA or public charter school is not required to administer the number of universal screeners recommended or identified in the department's RTI² framework for students in grade six (6).

(b) Each LEA and public charter school shall determine whether to implement the intervention, instruction, accountability, and universal screener models and schedules recommended or identified in the department's RTI² framework for high school students and high school teaching staff, or to develop and implement its own intervention, instruction, accountability, and universal screener models and schedules to better serve the needs of its high school students and high school teaching staff.

SECTION 2. The department of education shall promptly seek a waiver from the United States Department of Education, or seek to amend Tennessee's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan, as necessary and appropriate to implement this act.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2021-2022 school year and each school year thereafter.