

SENATE BILL 1737

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 5 and Title 49,
Chapter 6, relative to teacher assignments.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, in order to teach kindergarten through grade three (K-3), a teacher must have received an evaluation demonstrating an overall performance effectiveness level of "above expectations" or "significantly above expectations" on the most recent teacher evaluation conducted pursuant to § 49-1-302(d).

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a):

(1) A first-year teacher who has not received an evaluation pursuant to § 49-1-302(d), may be assigned to teach kindergarten through grade three (K-3) if the teacher earned:

(A) An overall cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale upon graduation from an institution of higher education; and

(B) Qualifying scores on the appropriate edTPA assessments for kindergarten through grade three (K-3);

(2) A teacher who has not received an evaluation pursuant to § 49-1-302(d) during any of the previous three (3) years may be assigned to teach kindergarten through grade three (K-3) for a probationary period of one (1) year, after which time subsection (a) applies; and

(3) A teacher receiving an evaluation demonstrating an overall performance effectiveness level of "at expectations," "below expectations," or "significantly below expectations" on the most recent teacher evaluation conducted pursuant to § 49-1-302(d) may be permitted to remain in or transfer to a teaching assignment in kindergarten through grade three (K-3) for a probationary period of one (1) year if:

(A) The teacher received an evaluation demonstrating an overall performance effectiveness level of "above expectations" or "significantly above expectations" on two (2) of the teacher's three (3) most recent evaluations conducted pursuant to § 49-1-302(d); and

(B) The LEA has demonstrated evidence of a critical shortage of teachers meeting the requirements of subsection (a).

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