

SENATE BILL 1965

By Crowe

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, is amended by deleting subsection (c) and substituting instead the following:

(1)

(A) Students in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who have been suspended or expelled from the regular school program must be assigned to an alternative school or alternative program if there is space and staff available.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (c)(1)(A), a student in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who has been suspended 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 shall not be assigned 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.

(2) 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.

(3) A student who is assigned to an alternative school or alternative program is subject to all rules pertaining to the alternative school or alternative program. The director of schools, or the director's designee, may remove a student from the alternative

school or alternative program for the duration of the student's original suspension or expulsion if the director, or the director's designee, determines that the student has violated the rules of the alternative school or alternative program. The student's removal does not constitute grounds for any extension of the student's original suspension or expulsion. The director of schools, or the director's designee, shall make the final decision on removal.

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