



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 963

SENATE BILL NO. 2410

**By Johnson, Kelsey, Bell, Crowe, Jackson, Lamar, Lundberg, Massey, Powers, Swann,
Walley**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2157

By Lamberth, Gant, White, Kumar, Zachary, Travis, Shaw, Moon, Parkinson, Clemmons, Ragan,
Vital, Powers, Cepicky, Hazlewood, Moody, Alexander, Howell, Eldridge, Hurt, Williams, Todd,
Lafferty, McKenzie, Hakeem, Helton, Miller, Jernigan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7; Title 49, Chapter 8 and Title 49,
Chapter 9, relative to civics.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 9, is amended by adding the
following as a new part:

49-9-1101. Establishment of an institute of American civics.

(a) There is established an institute of American civics at the University of Tennessee,
Knoxville. The board of trustees for the University of Tennessee may rename the institute
consistent with its philanthropic naming governance procedures.

(b) It is the purpose of the institute to:

(1) Foster a deeper understanding of the structures and institutions of federal,
state, and local government;

(2) Further the understanding of the principles and philosophies that
contributed to the foundation and development of the United States and the state of
Tennessee;

(3) Promote civil discourse and constructive debate;

(4) Enhance education in the fields of politics, economics, philosophy,
American history, American government, and other related fields as appropriate, with
a focus on the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship; fundamental
democratic principles; and the ways in which those principles are expressed in and
through our federal, state, and local institutions;

(5) Provide nonpartisan resources to students, faculty, state government
agencies, educators, and the general public regarding civic affairs;

(6) Foster civic engagement through full and fair discussions that promote civil
dialogue among those holding conflicting points of view; and

(7) Assist in ensuring that the University of Tennessee serves as a robust
marketplace of ideas for all students and faculty.

(c) In order to carry out the purposes set forth in subsection (b), the institute is
authorized to:

(1) Hire faculty and staff;

(2) Enroll students;

(3) Develop and offer courses in new undergraduate major and minor programs;

(4) Offer general education and honors courses;

(5) Provide and facilitate internships and other relevant experiences for students and the general public;

(6) Hold events; and

(7) Take other actions as appropriate, subject to the supervision of the chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and the general supervision of the president of the University of Tennessee system.

(d) Upon its establishment, the institute may be physically housed in the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

(e) The institute shall operate as an academic unit within the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

(f) The institute shall provide programming addressing American civics and related topics for the University of Tennessee system.

49-9-1102. Board of fellows.

(a) The president of the University of Tennessee, in consultation with the governor, the speaker of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives, shall appoint initial members to serve on a board of fellows for the institute. Members of the initial board of fellows must be appointed by September 1, 2022.

(b) The board of fellows must consist of thirteen (13) members, of which:

(1) At least nine (9) members must be, or have been, tenured professors or administrators or professors of practice at an institution of higher education in the United States;

(2) Two (2) members must be distinguished former elected or appointed officials in the United States, and, while serving in their former elected or appointed position, must have been affiliated with different political parties; and

(3) Two (2) members must be members of the board of the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. If a member appointed under this subdivision (b)(3) vacates the member's position on the board of the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, then the member vacates the member's position on the board of fellows and must be replaced by the president of the University of Tennessee.

(c) In order to establish staggered terms for members of the board, four (4) of the initial members must be appointed to serve a term of two (2) years; four (4) of the initial members must be appointed to serve a term of four (4) years; and five (5) of the initial members must be appointed to serve a term of six (6) years. After the initial appointments expire, the term for each member of the board appointed to succeed an initial member of the board of fellows is six (6) years. Board members may continue to serve on the board after their term expires, but only until a new member is appointed to replace the board member. Board members may be reappointed to multiple terms.

(d) The president of the University of Tennessee may remove a member from the board of fellows for misconduct or neglect of duty.

(e) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(3), when a member's term expires or when a vacancy on the board arises, the board of fellows shall, with the approval of the president of the University of Tennessee, and in consultation with the governor, the speaker of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives, appoint a new member to serve on the board. If the board appoints a new member to fill a vacancy, then the new member serves for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(f) The president of the University of Tennessee shall designate a member of the board of fellows to serve as the chair for a term of two (2) years. At the expiration of the chair's term, the president of the University of Tennessee shall appoint another member to serve as chair. There is no limitation on the number of terms a chair may serve. If the chair

resigns from the position of chair, or resigns from the board of fellows, then the president of the University of Tennessee may designate another member to serve the remainder of the former chair's two-year term.

(g) The board of fellows shall advise the director appointed pursuant to § 49-9-1103 on matters related to the institute, including, but not limited to, staffing, curriculum, policy, and programming, in accordance with the policies and procedures of the University of Tennessee. The director retains final discretion as to all such decisions for the institute, in accordance with the policies and procedures of the University of Tennessee.

49-9-1103. Director - Faculty and staff.

(a) By March 1, 2023, the board of fellows, or a committee of the board selected by the board, shall conduct a national search and transmit to the chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville a list of finalists for the position of director. The chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville shall provide all necessary administrative support for the search. The chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville shall appoint the director from the list of finalists provided by the board of fellows. If the position of director becomes vacant, then the same process must be followed to appoint a new director. During the period beginning when the position of director becomes vacant and when a new director is appointed, the chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville may designate a member of the institute's faculty to serve as acting director. The chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville may remove the director in accordance with the policies and procedures of the University of Tennessee.

(b) The director shall report to the chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

(c) Except for the appointment of the director as provided in subsection (a), the director shall make all faculty and staff hiring decisions. The director shall operate the institute in accordance with the policies and procedures of the University of Tennessee.

(d) Faculty of the institute may be awarded tenure subject to the tenure policies of the University of Tennessee as adopted by the board of trustees, and shall not be required to gain joint appointment in another division of the University of Tennessee.

(e) By September 1, 2023, and by each September 1 thereafter, the director shall develop and provide an annual strategic plan for the institute to the chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; the president of the University of Tennessee system; and the board of fellows.

49-9-1104. Use of funds.

Funds appropriated to the institute shall not supplant any existing state funding or private or external donations to the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy or to the University of Tennessee. Appropriated funds and all private and external donations to the institute may only be used for the direct operation of the institute.

49-9-1105. Annual report.

(a) By October 1, 2023, and by each October 1 thereafter, the president of the University of Tennessee shall, in consultation with the director of the institute, the board of fellows, and the chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, submit an annual report to the governor, the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairs of the finance committees of the senate and house of representatives.

(b) The report must include:

- (1) The total amount of funding received by the institute in the previous year;
- (2) A description of current faculty positions and the names and qualifications of the faculty members currently holding such positions;
- (3) The names and titles of the members of the board of fellows;
- (4) The total undergraduate and graduate student enrollment of the institute;
- (5) A description of the courses and degrees offered by the institute;

(6) A description of significant community events, initiatives, and publications provided by the institute during the previous year;

(7) A description of programs at the University of Tennessee supported by the institute; and

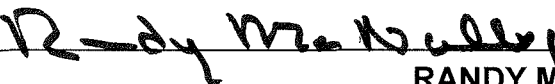
(8) A copy of the institute's most recently issued strategic plan.

SECTION 2. If a provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end, the provisions of this act are severable.

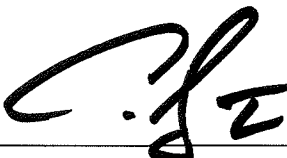
SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 2410

PASSED: April 14, 2022



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 29th day of April 2022



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR