

SENATE BILL 2549

By Gardenhire

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 24
and Title 49, relative to educators as witnesses.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 24, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "educator" means any person with an active teaching license who is currently employed as a teacher at any public elementary or secondary school in this state.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, a court shall not require an educator to be a witness in any civil hearing, deposition, mediation, arbitration, trial, or other similar proceeding involving a domestic dispute matter, including, but not limited to, domestic abuse, as defined by § 36-3-601, divorce, parentage, or child custody, if the educator is not a named party and the educator's attendance would require the educator to be absent from teaching or supervisory duties in a school, unless the court determines that the educator's attendance is necessary to ensure fairness in the hearing, mediation, arbitration, trial, or other similar matter.

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