

HOUSE BILL 2356
By Givens

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 50, Part 1, concerning agricultural extension services.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-101, is amended by adding the words "or family and consumer sciences" after the words "home economics" and by adding the words "Tennessee, with special emphasis on" before the words "rural communities".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-102, is amended by deleting the current language in its entirety and substituting the following:

Section 49-50-102. This work shall be known as the "cooperative extension work," carried on in cooperation with the United States department of agriculture, provided for in the Smith-Lever Act of congress (Act May 8, 1914, ch. 79, § 1, 38 Stat. 372), as amended, and in accordance with the regulations provided for in that act for the conduct of this work, and which provide that this work shall include practical demonstration instruction in agriculture and home economics or family and consumer sciences; conducting 4-H clubs for teaching agriculture, home economics or family and consumer sciences, and resource development; introducing new crops and new systems of farming in various areas of the state, as development in industry necessitates changes in existing crops and systems of farming; develop improved methods of

marketing farm products; and, in general, improve the quality of life for Tennesseans, with special emphasis on rural life, with the object of making farming more prosperous and farm life more desirable and attractive.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-103(a), is amended by adding the words “especially those” after the word “women” and by adding “or family and consumer sciences” after the words “home economics”.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-104(b), is amended by deleting the current language in its entirety and substituting the following:

(b) Three (3) of such members shall be elected from the membership of the county legislative body. There shall be elected to the committee four (4) members who are not members of the county legislative body and who reside in different civil districts, except if there are fewer than four (4) civil districts in a county at least one (1) member shall come from each civil district. Of the seven (7) members, at least two (2) shall be elected to represent agriculture who shall be farmers or actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, one (1) to represent home economics or family and consumer sciences, one (1) to represent 4-H club and youth work, and one (1) to represent educational programs in resource development initiatives.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-104(c), is amended by deleting the current language in its entirety and substituting the following:

(c) The members shall be elected for terms of two (2) years. Two (2) of the members representing the county legislative body and one (1) representative not elected from the county legislative body, shall be elected in even-numbered years; the other members shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The elections shall be held at the first meeting of the county legislative body of each calendar year. No member may be elected for more than three (3) successive terms. In the event that there is a vacancy on the committee, the county legislative body shall fill such vacancy at its next regular

meeting after the vacancy occurs, and the committee member filling the vacancy shall serve during the unexpired term of the member's predecessor.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-104(d)(1), is amended by deleting the word "with" and substituting the words "in an advisory capacity to the".

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-105(a), is amended by deleting the current language in its entirety and substituting the following:

(a) For participation in the benefits of this part, two (2) or more counties may cooperate and be regarded as one (1) county.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 50, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as Section 49-50-108 and redesignating the current Section 49-50-108 as 49-50-109:

Section 49-50-108. County extension agents and other employees of the agricultural extension service whose compensation is payable by either the University of Tennessee or Tennessee State University are employees of the institution paying the compensation and are subject to the policies and supervision of their respective institutions. Employees whose compensation is payable by the county are county employees and subject to the policies and supervision of the county. The county agricultural committees will act in an advisory capacity to the universities in the employment, assignment, or discharge of university employees for whom the county provides funds from county extension appropriations.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.