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HOUSE BILL 1587 By
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SENATE BILL 1843
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AN ACT to establish special FFA endowment funds at the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc. for supporting FFA leadership development programs for Tennessee youth.

WHEREAS, FFA is an agriculture-oriented classroom organization, which teaches agricultural knowledge and skills including the agricultural sciences and conservation in addition to developing citizenship and leadership skills including public speaking and parliamentary procedure; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee FFA Association, as an integral part of the instructional program in agriculture education, provides the essential motivation for hands-on application of the knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom and laboratory. These motivating incentives for excelling in the FFA programs include skills contests, degree programs, and awards in diverse areas ranging from floriculture and landscape design to livestock production, food processing and beyond. This wide array of programs enables and empowers students to acquire occupational, college preparatory and entrepreneurship skills through active implementation of the FFA/agricultural education program's "Learning by Doing" motto; and

WHEREAS, the broad scope of the agricultural education and FFA program reaches many of the educational and development needs of Tennessee's rural, suburban and urban youth, and these incentive-based programs are supported by the contributions of time, cooperation and financial resources from a wide cross-section of the community. In order to coordinate these support efforts, leaders in business, industry, agriculture, education and

government have joined together to form the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc. to provide financial resources for the support of these vital programs as we enter the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly wishes to support the continued vitality of the FFA programs through the provision of funds to match those raised from the private sector by the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. There is established special FFA endowment funds in the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc.

SECTION 2. The state shall match the funds raised by the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc. up to six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) as money in the endowment fund becomes available through the General Appropriations Act or grants. The matching funds raised by the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc., together with the state matching funds, shall be deposited in the endowment accounts maintained by the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc.

SECTION 3. Interest accruing on investments of the funds deposited to the credit of the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc. under this endowment fund shall be used for the sole purpose of promoting FFA programs in the state of Tennessee.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999, the public welfare requiring it.