

HOUSE BILL 1541  
By Turner (Shelby)

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to diversity training for teachers and students.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended to add a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 49-6-1013.

(a) The department of education is authorized and directed to develop and implement a diversity and cultural sensitivity training curriculum for public elementary school students and teachers. The goal of this program shall be to increase the awareness and sensitivity of students and teachers to racial, ethnic and gender differences. The program shall also address sensitivity issues related to mentally and physically disabled and overweight persons.

(b) The department is authorized to work with public or private specialists in developing this program and is encouraged to utilize skills teachers have gained through diversity training outside this program. The department is directed to develop creative and effective methods for ensuring that students and teachers become aware of

differences that exist among people, improve interpersonal skills and encourage a harmonious learning environment in public elementary schools.

(c) The program outlined in this section shall incorporate any existing multicultural diversity training that has been developed pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1006(a).

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