

SENATE BILL 1614
By Burchett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9, relative to charter schools.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 8, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 6 of this act as a new part to be appropriately designated.

SECTION 2. The state board of regents shall take the necessary steps to establish a charter school on the campus of each state community college. The purpose of these charter schools is to provide remedial and development courses to enable students entering the community colleges or other two- and four-year institutions to complete entrance requirements.

SECTION 3. The state board of regents shall solicit and evaluate proposals from each community college for remedial and developmental charter schools. Proposals shall include the system of governance of the schools, its location and facilities at the college, the method and manner of instruction, and by whom it will be provided, the objectives and purposes of the school, the method of evaluation to be used in determining the success of the school, the plan for recruiting and admitting students including both students who have been conditionally admitted to the college as well as students still in high school, and such other information or details as the board of regents may require.

SECTION 4. The board of regents shall take the necessary action, either on its own or in conjunction with the state commissioner of education, to apply for available federal funding for charter schools. Any required matching funds shall be allocated from funds already appropriated to the state board of regents or the University of Tennessee board of trust for remedial or developmental programs or coursework. Matching funds shall also be obtained from any local education agency whose graduates are required to take remedial or development courses within two (2) years of such person's high school graduation from a local education agency in Tennessee. No recovery of funds shall occur, however, if a student is required to take a course which was not available in the curriculum of the local education agency attended by such student.

SECTION 5. Admissions to the remedial and development charter schools will be available to any student who otherwise has qualified to attend either the community college conducting the charter school or any other two-or four-year institution of higher education in Tennessee, to high school seniors or juniors attending local education agencies which do not offer all courses required for admission to state two- or four-year institutions, and to high school seniors and juniors who have been determined to be deficient in courses required for admission to state two-or four-year institutions.

SECTION 6. The state board of regents shall report on a semi-annual basis to the joint oversight committee on education and to the education committees of the senate and house of representatives on their actions in implementing this act, the number and location of charter schools established, enrollment at such schools, the effectiveness of the various schools, and such other information as the committees may request.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.