

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 710
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to express the sense of the General Assembly that funding for the Basic Education Plan (BEP) not be reduced.

WHEREAS, historically, it has been the policy of the State of Tennessee to ensure educational opportunities for all children within our state; as in most states, funding of education constitutes a significant segment of the state's budget. About 17 percent of the expenditures in Tennessee's budget funds K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, the BEP formula reflects the settlement in the historic small schools suit, with the 2.4 to 2.5 billion dollars in state funds augmenting the local portion of funding to equalize per pupil expenditures throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, although the State of Tennessee has faced a serious revenue shortfall over the past years, prudence in setting funding priorities dictates that every effort be made to preserve funding of the BEP because of the potential long-term effects upon the future of Tennessee's children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That this General Assembly declares that it is the sense of this body that funding for the BEP should not be reduced below the amount recommended in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2002-2003, and that every effort should be made by the General Assembly and the Executive Branch to ensure that BEP funding be preserved at that level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.