

HOUSE BILL 1648

By Jones U

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 14 and Title 49, relative to the establishment of the "We Want to Learn English Initiative."

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 14, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 4-3-1420.

(a) The department of labor and workforce development, in conjunction with the department of education, shall establish and administer a grant program to be known as the "We Want to Learn English Initiative." The initiative shall be created for the purpose of providing resources for immigrants and refugees in this state to learn English in order to move towards becoming full members of American society.

(b) The department shall utilize existing staff to assist in the implementation of the program and provide grant funding from whatever funding sources available, including, but not limited to, funds from the federal, state, county, and municipal governments.

(c) The department of labor and workforce development shall allocate and disperse funds each fiscal year to community-based, not-for-profit organizations, immigrant social service organizations, faith-based organizations, and on-site job training programs so that immigrants and refugees can learn English where they live, work, pray and socialize and where their children attend school.

(d) Funds for the "We Want to Learn English Initiative" may be used only to provide programs that teach English to United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and other persons residing in this state who are in lawful immigration status.

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

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