

HOUSE BILL 2722

By Campfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 22, Part 1 and Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 20, relative to providing computer technology to certain students.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 22, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 41-22-131.

(a) The commissioner of correction is authorized to utilize inmate labor to refurbish computers for low income students as defined in § 49-6-2009 who do not have technology in their homes. Prior to using inmate labor to refurbish computers the commissioner shall determine that use of inmate labor will:

(1) Not compromise the safety or financial security of correction employees or the general public;

(2) Not substantially increase the likelihood of introduction of dangerous contraband into prison facilities; and

(3) Result in a finished product that will be of value to students.

(b) The refurbished computers shall be provided to LEA's pursuant to Section 2 of this act.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 20, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 49-6-2009.

(a) A LEA may distribute surplus and refurbished computer equipment, including computer equipment received pursuant to § 49-6-2007 and § 41-22-131 to low income

students who do not have technology in their homes. For purposes of this subsection (a), computer equipment includes personal computers, printers, CD-ROM readers, monitors, keyboards, CPU's, scanners, and all accessories, and other peripheral equipment used in a data processing operation. An LEA shall adopt policies and guidelines implementing this program if it decides to participate. Policy and guidelines shall include:

(1) A written determination that the property no longer meets technology standards established by the department of education;

(2) A process for identifying eligible students and distributing the surplus technology property; and

(3) Documentation of all distributions of property.

(b) LEAs are encouraged to work with local businesses and organizations to accept donations of computer equipment and with their parent and student organizations to receive, store and distribute refurbished computers.

(c) For the purposes of this section, a low income student means a student who is eligible for free and reduced lunch as determined pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1771.

SECTION 3. A LEA may sell or otherwise dispose of any computer which is not needed or has become unsuitable for use for low income students, or which would be suitable, consistent with the public interest, for some other use.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.