

HOUSE BILL 3148

By Winningham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 1-3-118 and Title 49, relative to school completion.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 30, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-6-30\_\_.

(a) An LEA shall document a student's withdrawal from a school and transfer to another school, system or state through the best information available. Such information may include documentation provided by relatives or community contacts, court documents, requests for records from a school to which the student transferred and other reasonable means of determining whether the withdrawing student enrolled in another school or program leading to a high school diploma. A permanent record containing all pertinent information with regard to a student's withdrawal from school, including the signature of the parent or guardian requesting withdrawal, and, to the extent possible, the student's future destination shall be kept.

(b) The department of education shall not require an LEA to obtain formal written proof that a child who has moved out-of-state has enrolled in a school or program leading to the award of a regular high school diploma in order not to count such student as a dropout.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6001, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

( ) Students who, in lieu of graduating from high school, obtain a general equivalency development credential (GED) shall be counted as a high school graduate

of the high school that they attended or were eligible to attend for the purpose of calculating graduation rates; provided, however, that such students shall not be counted as graduates for purposes pursuant to which such inclusion in a graduation rate calculation is prohibited by federal law.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010, the public welfare requiring it.