

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 767

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to direct the Department of Education to study "green cleaning" practices in public schools.

WHEREAS, today it is vitally important to maintain a sanitary environment in our schools and many of the cleaning products utilized may be hazardous to the environment and to the health of maintenance workers, students, and school staff; and

WHEREAS, "green cleaning" reduces environmental and health risks by selecting alternative, environmentally-sensitive products, by applying these products properly, and by implementing maintenance practices that minimize exposure to cleaning products; and

WHEREAS, green cleaning strategies are now being utilized in many school districts nationwide and a number of our sister states have enacted legislation that require schools to use green cleaning products in addition to establishing guidelines and specifications for schools to follow; and

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin, the use of environmentally safe cleaning products has been shown to increase teacher and student attendance as well as test scores; the replacement of cleaning products with new, environmentally-safe products can be done with negligible expense; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, two schools in Blount County, Eagleton Elementary and Carpenters Middle, have already initiated a "green cleaning" policy, which can be monitored and studied by state officials to determine the benefits of the adoption of a green cleaning program on a statewide basis; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the department of education is hereby directed to study the impact and

benefits of utilizing a green cleaning program in Tennessee, including its effect on teacher and student attendance as well as student test scores.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in developing its report, the department shall examine and review the green cleaning programs implemented and utilized by Eagleton Elementary and Carpenters Middle School in Blount County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department shall make a written report of its findings and any recommendations to the committees on education, environment and conservation, and health of both the House of Representatives and the Senate no later than February 1, 2011.

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