

SENATE BILL 624

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to teachers.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-503(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (3) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(3) Has completed a probationary period of at least three (3) school years, but not more than ten (10) years, the last year to be employed as a regular teacher. The length of the probationary period shall be determined for each teacher by the local board of education upon the advice and recommendation of the director of schools.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-504(a), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) Any teacher, otherwise qualified for permanent tenure status shall serve three (3) years, but not more than ten (10) years, as a probationary teacher before acquiring permanent tenure status.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-508(b), is amended by deleting the language "the serving of five (5)" and by substituting instead the language "the serving of a minimum of five (5)."

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-512(c)(1), is amended by deleting the language "the teacher shall first exhaust the administrative remedy of appealing the decision to the board of education" and by substituting instead the language "the teacher shall appeal the decision to the board of education."

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-512(c)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(c)

(4) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the decision of the board of education shall be final and not subject to appeal or to judicial review.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-513, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-511(c)(1), is amended by deleting the language "§§ 49-5-512 and 49-5-513" and by substituting instead the language "§ 49-5-512".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-511(c)(2), is amended by deleting the language "in the board and court reviews provided for in §§ 49-5-512 and 49-5-513" and by substituting instead the language "in the board review provided for in § 49-5-512".

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-515(e), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety.

SECTION 10. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 11. Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to teachers initially employed by an LEA in the 2012-2013 school year and school years thereafter. Sections 4 through 9 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2011, and shall apply to suspension or dismissals of teachers initiated on or after that date. All remaining sections of this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.