

Amendment No. 1 to SB1692

Gresham
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1692*

House Bill No. 1857

by adding the following language as a preamble to the bill:

WHEREAS, the evolution of technology has fundamentally changed the education system in Tennessee and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, these technological advances have revolutionized access to information through the development and proliferation of digital content; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee recognizes that equality of access to educational materials is an essential component of higher education; now therefore,

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) The executive director of the commission shall convene an accessibility task force to develop recommendations for the general assembly related to ensuring accessibility of digital curricula for students with disabilities at state institutions of higher education.

(b) The accessibility task force shall be composed of:

(1) A representative from the state designated protection and advocacy system;

(2) A representative from a Tennessee organization representing blind people;

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(3) A representative from a Tennessee organization representing people with learning disabilities;

(4) A representative from the board of regents;

(5) A representative from the University of Tennessee system;

(6) A representative from the Tennessee higher education commission;

(7) A representative of non-profit independent colleges and universities; and

(8) Experts in the field of technology with specializations in accessibility, as the executive director deems appropriate.

SECTION 2. The accessibility task force shall seek input from the public and other stakeholders during the development of and before finalizing recommendations.

SECTION 3. The accessibility task force shall timely report its final recommendations to the speakers of the senate and the house of representatives and the chairs of the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives, no later than December 15, 2014.

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