

SENATE BILL 8

By Summerville

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 14; Title 49, Chapter 50; Title 49, Chapter 7; Title 49, Chapter 8 and Title 49, Chapter 9, and to enact the Higher Education Equality Act of Tennessee.

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Higher Education Equality Act of Tennessee (HEAT)".

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

49-7-1\_\_\_. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no public institution of higher education shall grant preference based on race, gender or ethnicity, unless specifically required by federal law, to any student or employee of the public institution of higher education or any person with whom the public institution of higher education contracts.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-8-114, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 4. Nothing in the act shall be construed to abridge or impair a contract or agreement entered into by the Tennessee higher education commission, the board of regents, the University of Tennessee system or a public institution of higher education before the effective date of this act.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.