

SENATE BILL 1879

By Niceley

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

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-301(a), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) The state board of education shall be composed of nine (9) elected members, one (1) appointed public high school student member and one (1) ex officio member. One (1) elected member shall be elected from each congressional district. To be eligible to run for election and to serve, the member shall reside within the congressional district from which the member is elected as such district is apportioned at the time of the member's election. No incumbent member shall be removed from the incumbent member's seat prior to the expiration of the incumbent member's current term as a result of changes in congressional districts occasioned by reapportionment.

(2) The members of the board shall be elected for a term of four (4) years, and a member may serve no more than one (1) additional term. As the terms of the nine (9) voting members currently serving by appointment expire, the vacancies created in their respective seats shall be filled by appointment by the General Assembly. A person so appointed shall serve until a successor is elected and qualifies according to law. The successor shall be elected at the next general election for which candidates have a sufficient time to qualify under the law.

(3) Except as otherwise provided by subdivision (a)(1), if an elected member of the board ceases to reside within the congressional district from which the member was elected, then the member's seat on the board shall become vacant and shall be filled by appointment by the general assembly. A person so appointed shall serve until a successor is elected and qualifies according to law. The successor shall be elected at the next general election for which candidates have a sufficient time to qualify under the law.

(4) The executive director of the higher education commission shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member of the board.

(5) The high school student shall be of superlative standing and shall serve for a one-year term in an ex officio, nonvoting capacity. The student member shall be appointed each year by the governor from nominees chosen by the local board of education in each school system at each board's discretion, with no more than one (1) student from each school system being nominated, and with the students having reached their junior or senior year in high school.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.