

SENATE BILL 1975

By Massey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to public colleges and universities.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 8, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) If a petition is created by students, alumni, faculty, or staff of a public college or university and the petition obtains at least five thousand (5,000) valid signatures, then the public college or university shall hold a public meeting with an opportunity for public comment on the topic of the petition.

(b) The public meeting shall be held no less than thirty (30) days after the petition is given to the appropriate school administrator at the public college or university, or the school administrator's designee, with the five thousand (5,000) valid signatures.

(c) The appropriate school administrator at the public college or university, or the school administrator's designee, shall be responsible for conspicuously posting the notice:

- (1) In every building that is owned or operated by the public college or university;
- (2) On the grounds of the public college or university where the students, alumni, faculty, or staff congregate;
- (3) On the web site of the public college or university; and
- (4) In a newspaper of general circulation, as defined in § 2-1-104(a), in the areas served by the public college or university.

(d) A panel of school administrators, students, alumni, faculty, and staff shall conduct the public meeting. The panel shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) One (1) representative from the office of the president, or the president's designee who shall serve as the chair;

(2) One (1) representative from the administration or department of the public school or university that is responsible for the subject matter of the signed petition;

(3) The student body president, or the student body president's designee;

(4) The student body vice president, or the student body vice president's designee;

(5) One (1) member of the student body who is currently enrolled in the public college or university;

(6) One (1) member of an alumni association for the public college or university;

(7) One (1) member of the faculty of the public college or university;

(8) One (1) member of the staff of the public college or university; and

(9) One (1) member of the general assembly who represents the district where the public college or university is located; or the member's designee.

(e) The public college or university shall provide a live streaming of the public meeting on the web site of the college or university. The video shall remain on the web site for at least one hundred twenty (120) days after the public meeting.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 9, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) If a petition is created by students, alumni, faculty, or staff of a public college or university and the petition obtains at least five thousand (5,000) valid signatures, then the public college or university shall hold a public meeting with an opportunity for public comment on the topic of the petition.

(b) The public meeting shall be held no less than thirty (30) days after the petition is given to the appropriate school administrator at the public college or university, or the school administrator's designee, with the five thousand (5,000) valid signatures.

(c) The appropriate school administrator at the public college or university, or the school administrator's designee, shall be responsible for conspicuously posting the notice:

(1) In every building that is owned or operated by the public college or university;

(2) On the grounds of the public college or university where the students, alumni, faculty, or staff congregate;

(3) On the web site of the public college or university; and

(4) In a newspaper of general circulation, as defined in § 2-1-104(a), in the areas served by the public college or university.

(d) A panel of school administrators, students, alumni, faculty, and staff shall conduct the public meeting. The panel shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) One (1) representative from the office of the chancellor, or the chancellor's designee who shall serve as the chair;

(2) One (1) representative from the administration or department of the public school or university that is responsible for the subject matter of the signed petition;

(3) The student body president, or the student body president's designee;

(4) The student body vice president, or the student body vice president's designee;

(5) One (1) member of the student body who is currently enrolled in the public college or university;

(6) One (1) member of an alumni association for the public college or university;

(7) One (1) member of the faculty of the public college or university;

(8) One (1) member of the staff of the public college or university; and

(9) One (1) member of the general assembly who represents the district where the public college or university is located; or the member's designee.

(e) The public college or university shall provide a live streaming of the public meeting on the web site of the college or university. The video shall remain on the web site for at least one hundred twenty (120) days after the public meeting.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.