

HOUSE BILL 664

By Parkinson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 13 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to alternative education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3402, is amended by deleting subsection (c) and substituting instead the following:

(c)

(1) Attendance in an alternative school:

(A) Is mandatory for students in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who have been expelled; and

(B) Is voluntary, unless the local board of education adopts a policy mandating attendance, for students:

(i) In grades one through six (1-6) who have been suspended or expelled from the regular school program; and

(ii) In grades seven through twelve (7-12) who have been suspended as provided in this part.

(2) A student attending an alternative school is subject to all rules of the local board of education pertaining to the student's attendance in the alternative school. A violation of the rules by a student may result in the student's removal from the alternative school for the duration of the original suspension or expulsion, but does not constitute grounds for any extension of the original suspension or expulsion. The chief administrator of the alternative school shall make the final decision on removal.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 13, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

The governing body of a public charter school shall establish an alternative educational setting for students who have been suspended from the regular school program. A charter school shall not expel a student from school attendance until after the student has been placed in an alternative educational setting. The governing body of the public charter school shall adopt policies to effectuate the purposes of this section.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to the 2019-2020 school year and each school year thereafter.