

SENATE BILL 1061

By Dickerson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 41; Title 49 and Title 50, relative to higher
education for incarcerated individuals.

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

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

(a) The department of correction shall, in partnership with the Tennessee higher education commission and the board of regents, develop and submit to the general assembly an annual report that details the higher education opportunities available to incarcerated individuals in this state.

(b) The report must include:

(1) The number of incarcerated individuals housed at each correctional facility who are participating in higher education opportunities;

(2) The higher education opportunities available at each correctional facility, including the name of each institution of higher education providing higher education opportunities, along with a description of each course, field of study, or program provided by the institution of higher education;

(3) The number of degrees annually conferred to incarcerated individuals housed in a correctional facility, including the name of each institution of higher education conferring the degree;

(4) Recommendations from the commissioner of correction, made in partnership with the executive director of the Tennessee higher education commission and the chancellor of the board of regents, to increase the higher

education opportunities available to incarcerated individuals housed in correctional facilities in this state; and

(5) A plan to equip at least ten percent (10%) of incarcerated individuals housed in correctional facilities in this state with a degree, diploma, or certificate by the year 2025 by increasing the availability of, and participation in, higher education opportunities provided by institutions of higher education.

(c) The department shall transmit the report required under this section to the chairs of the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives, and to the chairs of the judiciary committees of the senate and the house of representatives, no later than January 1 of each year.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-202(d)(4), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

Establishing incarcerated individuals housed in correctional facilities in this state as a focus population in order to increase the degree attainment of such individuals;

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