

SENATE BILL 2704

By Gilmore

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

WHEREAS, public school teachers in Tennessee have an excessive workload that annually escalates, as additional duties within their classroom and their school increase without consideration of personal time or expense; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee public school teachers are being called upon regularly to undertake additional mandated tasks not relevant to their teaching duties; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee public school teachers are forced to use their own money and personal time to purchase classroom supplies and other items to equip their classrooms and provide learning materials and basic necessities for their students; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee public school teachers are required to teach an outdated curriculum that requires extra preparation by the teachers if the curriculum is to reflect today's job market; and

WHEREAS, the undue burden on Tennessee public school teachers, due to the excessive number of rules adopted, has had an adverse effect on teachers' working conditions and has spurred many professional educators to leave the profession; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1.

(a) The task force on public school teachers' working conditions is created to examine the working conditions of the state's public school teachers and to make recommendations for the improvement of public school teachers' working conditions.

(b) The task force is composed of the following eight (8) members:

(1) Three (3) teachers, one (1) from each grand division of the state, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives upon consultation with the chair of the education committee of the house of representatives;

(2) Three (3) teachers, one (1) from each grand division of the state, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate upon consultation with the chair of the education committee of the senate;

(3) One (1) member to be appointed by the governor; and

(4) A representative from the department of education, to be appointed by the commissioner of education.

(c) Members of the task force must be appointed by July 1, 2020.

(d) Members of the task force serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses. Reimbursement for travel expenses must conform to the comprehensive state travel regulations promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(e) The department of education shall provide administrative assistance and support services to the task force. The department's representative shall call the first meeting of the task force, which must occur by August 1, 2020. At the first meeting, the task force must elect a chair. The task force may elect other officers as the task force deems necessary to produce a report and recommendations concerning public school teachers' working conditions.

(f)

(1) The task force shall submit a report on the working conditions of Tennessee public school teachers by December 31, 2020, at which time the task force ceases to exist.

(2) The report must make recommendations to improve the working conditions of Tennessee public school teachers.

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