HOUSE BILL 3062

By Williams R

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

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-104, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

( ) Any LEA operating a virtual school or virtual education program shall not exceed the teacher-pupil ratio for virtual schools set by the state board of education.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3004, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

( ) Any LEA operating a virtual school or virtual education program shall make available the same length of time for learning opportunities per academic year as required under this section to any student participating in its program. The LEA shall, however, also permit a student to move at the student's own pace. The student shall demonstrate mastery, competency and completion of a course or subject area to be given credit for the course or subject area.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-16-206, is amended by deleting subdivisions (2) and (3) in their entireties and by substituting instead the following:

(2) Provide materials and access to necessary technology such as computer, printer and internet connection used for school work, at minimum, through a physical computer lab that is available to the student through regularly scheduled times.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6001, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

( ) Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the 2013-2014 school year, at least one (1) course within the credits required by the state board of education for graduation shall be completed through online learning. However, an online course taken during grades six through eight (6-8) shall fulfill this requirement. This requirement shall be met through an online course offered through an LEA or an online dual enrollment course offered pursuant to a district agreement. A student who is enrolled in a full-time or part-time virtual school meets this requirement.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.