



# *State of Tennessee*

## **PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 402**

### **SENATE BILL NO. 614**

**By Watson, Gresham, Yarbrow, Norris, Overbey**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 695

By Williams, Mark White, Forgety, Akbari, Byrd, Kumar, Pitts, Fitzhugh, Powers, Love, Harry Brooks, Kevin Brooks, Marsh, Parkinson, Travis, Curcio, Thompson, Kane, Hardaway, Eldridge, Gilmore, Clemmons

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 56, relative to teacher training.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-5601, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

The general assembly recognizes the vital position occupied by institutions of higher education in the training of teachers, the improvement in the quality of the education profession, and the impact on Tennessee students. In acting to support these functions in public institutions of higher education, the general assembly must maintain a proper balance between the academic freedom of higher education and the need to respond to the public's expectations of quality in the state's teacher training programs. Therefore, the general assembly does not seek to impose restrictions on the philosophy or course selection of teacher training programs. The general assembly does, however, reserve the authority to require of each teacher training institution reasonable admission standards, graduation standards, and outcomes for prospective teachers to ensure that teachers are effectively prepared to positively affect student achievement in accordance with this part.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-5631, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) All full-time educator preparation program faculty members, including academic deans or executive leaders of such educator preparation programs, who are involved in the preparation of teachers, shall further their professional development through direct personal involvement in the public school or local education agency setting of pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (pre-K-12) on an annual basis.

(b) The faculty involvement must include:

(1) Professional learning targeted to or led by pre-k through grade twelve (pre-K-12) educators;

(2) Professional learning focused on local education agency specific educational initiatives;

(3) Direct instruction to pre-k through grade twelve students (pre-K-12);

(4) Curriculum development;

(5) District level strategic partnerships; or

(6) Direct observation of pre-k through grade twelve (pre-K-12) classrooms.

(c) In accordance with state board of education policy, all preparation providers shall establish state-recognized partnerships with each local education agency where enrolled candidates will complete any aspect of clinical practice.

(d) The state-recognized partnership agreements must detail how the college of education faculty detailed in subsection (a) shall engage with at least one (1) local education agency and describe faculty involvement activities listed in subsection (b).

(e) After implementation, the state board of education shall meet at least annually for structured meetings to coordinate policy on educator preparation, including, but not limited to, collaboration between colleges of education, colleges of education faculty, and local education agencies. The Tennessee higher education commission, the state's educator preparation programs, and the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association shall be invited to participate.

(f) The state board of education may review educator preparation programs for noncompliance with this section.

(g) This section shall not apply to a solely online college or university.

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

SENATE BILL NO. 614

PASSED: May 4, 2017

  
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RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2017

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR