



# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 361

### SENATE BILL NO. 801

By Johnson, Haile, Stevens, Yager, Gilmore, Gresham

Substituted for: House Bill No. 945

By Lamberth, Gant, White, DeBerry, Smith, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 11, relative to improving agricultural education.

WHEREAS, Tennessee is one of the nation's leading agricultural states and benefits from an annual economic impact of more than \$57 billion generated from agriculture; and

WHEREAS, national trends continue to show a decline in the number of young farmers and ranchers entering the agricultural workforce; and

WHEREAS, our national security and economic security as a State and a nation require a prosperous agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, our education system's renewed focus on career and technical education must reflect the value and opportunity of careers in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural industry will continue to undergo rapid technological change and innovation, presenting opportunities for Tennessee to lead the nation in agricultural progress; and

WHEREAS, this State recognizes the importance of agriculture to our everyday lives and sharing the message of how agriculture contributes to our strong economy through the production of safe, abundant, and affordable food and fiber products and renewable energy, and the creation of job opportunities; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 11, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) For the purpose of encouraging and promoting agricultural education opportunities and agricultural education programs in public schools that prepare students for successful careers and informed choices relating to opportunities in agriculture-related employment and higher education by providing instruction and developing skills in relevant areas through integrated classroom and lab instruction, supervised agricultural experiences, leadership experiences, and involvement in student organizations, there is established a task force to be known as the "Agriculture Education and Youth Participation Task Force."

(b) The task force shall consist of the following eleven (11) members:

(1) One (1) agricultural industry representative, advocate, or educator, to be appointed by the governor, who shall serve as chair of the task force;

(2) The commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee;

(3) The commissioner of agriculture or the commissioner's designee;

(4) One (1) faculty or staff member at a community college or college of applied technology governed by the board of regents with expertise in agribusiness or agricultural education, to be appointed by the chancellor of the board of regents;

(5) One (1) University of Tennessee faculty member with expertise in agricultural economics or agricultural education, to be appointed by the president of the University of Tennessee;

(6) One (1) Tennessee State University faculty member with expertise in agribusiness or agricultural education, to be appointed by the president of Tennessee State University;

(7) One (1) agricultural educator or Future Farmers of America representative, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(8) One (1) agricultural educator or 4-H representative, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(9) One (1) agricultural educator, to be appointed by the governor;

(10) The chair of the agriculture and natural resources committee of the house of representatives or the chair's designee; and

(11) The chair of the energy, agriculture, and natural resources committee of the senate or the chair's designee.

(c) The task force shall analyze and make recommendations on the following:

(1) The agricultural education mission in Tennessee;

(2) Agricultural education structure and delivery in Tennessee;

(3) The skills and credentials in demand in Tennessee's agricultural sector;

(4) Emerging fields in agriculture and the training and knowledge required for advancement in those fields;

(5) The impact of new technologies on agribusiness;

(6) The impact of agricultural extracurricular participation on outcomes for youth;

(7) Aligning the investment in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education with the agricultural education mission; and

(8) Integrating agricultural education and agricultural career readiness goals into the Tennessee Pathways initiative.

(d) The task force shall complete its analysis and deliver a report containing its findings and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly no later than February 1, 2020.

(e) The task force shall meet upon the call of the chair.

(f) The department of education shall provide necessary administrative support for the task force. The chair of the task force may call on relevant state agencies for assistance in the task force's work.

(g) The members of the task force serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for any travel expenses incurred. All reimbursement for travel must be provided in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(h) The task force shall terminate and cease to exist upon delivery of the task force's report to the governor and the general assembly containing its findings and recommendations required by this section.

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

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PASSED: April 24, 2019

  
RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
GLEN CASADA, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019

  
BILL LEE, GOVERNOR