

HOUSE BILL 7

By Cepicky

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 3, relative to funding for teachers' supplies.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-3-359, is amended by designating the existing language of subsection (a) as subdivision (a)(1) and adding the following as a new subdivision:

(2) For the 2023-2024 school year, each LEA and public charter school must pay three hundred dollars (\$300) for every teacher in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) in addition to the amount provided pursuant to subdivision (a)(1). This money must be used by the teachers for instructional supplies and must be given to each teacher by October 31 of each school year so that the teacher may spend it at any time during that school year on instructional supplies as determined necessary by the teacher. The purpose of these funds is to permit purchase of items of equipment for the benefit and enhancement of the instructional program. The funds cannot be used for basic building needs such as HVAC, carpets, furniture, items or equipment for the teachers' lounge, or the like. Any funds not spent by the end of the school year must be pooled at the school level and used for the purchase of items of equipment for the benefit of all teachers. Pooled funds cannot be used for basic building needs such as HVAC, carpets, furniture, items or equipment for the teachers' lounge, or the like.

SECTION 2. This act is not an appropriation of funds, and funds shall not be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, at 12:01 a.m., the public welfare requiring it.