

HOUSE BILL 56

By Cepicky

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, relative to kindergarten.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-201(b), is amended by deleting subdivision (3) and substituting instead the following:

(3) Children entering kindergarten must be five (5) years of age on or before:

(A) July 21 for the 2021-2022 school year;

(B) June 26 for the 2022-2023 school year; and

(C) June 1 for the 2023-2024 school year and each school year

thereafter;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3001(a), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(a) The public schools are free to all persons residing within the state who are above five (5) years of age or who will become five (5) years of age on or before:

(1) July 21 for the 2021-2022 school year;

(2) June 26 for the 2022-2023 school year; and

(3) June 1 for the 2023-2024 school year and each school year

thereafter.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3001(b)(1), is amended by deleting the language "on or before August 31 for the 2013-2014 school year and on or before August 15 for all school years thereafter" and substituting instead the language "on or before the date provided for the respective school year in subsection (a)".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3001(b)(2), is amended by deleting subdivision (B) and substituting instead the following:

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(2)(A), if the director of schools finds through evaluation and testing, at the request of the parent or legal guardian, that a child is sufficiently mature emotionally and academically, then the child may be permitted to enter kindergarten if the child is five (5) years of age on or before:

- (i) September 30 for the 2021-2022 school year;
- (ii) August 31 for the 2022-2023 school year; and
- (iii) July 31 for the 2023-2024 school year and each school year

thereafter.

SECTION 5. Notwithstanding § 49-6-201(b) or § 49-6-3001(a) or (b), children who participate in an LEA-administered pre-kindergarten program; a pre-kindergarten program administered by a private school, as defined by § 49-6-3001(c)(3)(A)(iii); or a Head Start program in a Head Start classroom, as defined by 42 U.S.C. § 9832 during the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, or 2023-2024 school years may enter kindergarten in the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, or 2024-2025 school years; provided, that such children must be five (5) years of age on or before August 15, 2022, for the 2022-2023 school year, July 21, 2023, for the 2023-2024 school year, and June 26, 2024, for the 2024-2025 school year.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.