

HOUSE BILL 209

By Coley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, relative to foreign language proficiency.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

§ 49-6-6005.

(a) Before graduating from high school, students who have completed coursework in a foreign language shall take a foreign language proficiency test. The state board of education shall establish a test for each foreign language that is taught in Tennessee public schools. If a student has completed coursework in more than one (1) foreign language, the student shall take a foreign language proficiency test for each of the languages studied.

(b) These tests shall be approved by the commissioner of education and provide educators with diagnostic information to assist in developing curriculum for the purposes of increasing foreign language proficiency and improving preparation for postsecondary achievement. Each year, the results of the examinations shall be analyzed and reported by the commissioner of education to the select oversight committee on education.

(c) All tests developed or used to implement this section, all banks of questions, all field testing documents used as background for the development of the tests, and all answers shall be kept confidential when and for so long as is necessary to protect the integrity of the tests, and accordingly, are exempt from the requirements of § 10-7-503.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2010, the public welfare requiring it.