

HOUSE BILL 447

By Byrd

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3017 and Title 55, Chapter 50, relative to high school students' driver licenses.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3017(a)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead:

“Satisfactory academic progress” means making a passing grade in at least three fourths (3/4) of the full unit subjects or their equivalency in which the student is enrolled at the conclusion of any grading period. If three fourths (3/4) of the number of full unit subjects a student is taking, or their equivalency, is not a whole number, then the number resulting from the multiplication by three fourths (3/4) shall be rounded up to the next whole number to obtain the number of full unit subjects, or their equivalency, that the student is required to pass; and

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3017(b)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead:

Enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a course leading to a general educational development certificate (GED[®]) or a high school equivalency test credential (HiSET[®]) from a state-approved institution or organization, or has obtained a GED[®] or HiSET[®].

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3017(c), is amended by deleting the last sentence of the subsection and substituting instead:

A student who fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress based on end of semester grading shall not be considered as being in compliance with this section until

the student makes satisfactory academic progress at the conclusion of any subsequent grading period.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3017(d), is amended by deleting the language “GED®” in the first sentence of the subsection and substituting instead “GED®, HiSET®,”.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3017(f), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting instead:

Notwithstanding the definition of satisfactory academic progress in subdivision (a)(2), any student under eighteen (18) years of age enrolled in a secondary school or in a course leading to a GED® or HiSET® who has more than five (5) consecutive or seven (7) total days unexcused absences in a semester shall not be considered as making satisfactory academic progress, and the student’s motor vehicle driver license shall be suspended; or if the student does not have a motor vehicle driver license, the student shall be ineligible to obtain a motor vehicle driver license until the student reaches eighteen (18) years of age. The attendance teacher, director of schools, or director of a GED® or HiSET® program shall notify the department of safety whenever any student under eighteen (18) years of age enrolled in a secondary school or in a course leading to a GED® or HiSET® has more than five (5) consecutive or seven (7) total days unexcused absences in a semester.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.