

HOUSE BILL 566

By DeBerry

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, relative to conscientious objections by students to certain elements of counseling programs in public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

A public institution of higher education operating under chapter 8 or 9 of this title shall not discriminate against, discipline, expel, remediate, or take any other adverse action against a student in a counseling, social work, or psychology program because the student refuses to counsel or serve a client as to goals, outcomes, or behaviors that conflict with a sincerely held religious belief of the student. The objecting student's supervising instructor or professor, in consultation with any director or agency in which an internship or practicum may be occurring, shall coordinate a referral of the client to a counselor who will provide the counseling or services.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.