

HOUSE BILL 961

By Coley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 10, relative to printing and distribution of the "Teacher Code of Ethics" and ethics training for educators.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 10, is amended by adding the following language as a new appropriately designated section:

49-5-10__.

(a) It shall be the duty of the state board of education to adopt any rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the annual distribution, either in printed form or by electronic means, of the teacher code of ethics to educators employed in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12). All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, complied in title 4, chapter 5.

(b) It shall be the duty of the state board of education to determine ways and means of improving teacher and administrator understanding of the teacher code of ethics. The state board of education shall develop training that can be used by local boards of education during in-service training and provide additional training opportunities online on specialized topics, including, but not limited to, the avoidance of ethical conflicts, defining ethical competence, the collision between personal preferences or values and individual student needs, and the path to responsible decision making in an educational setting. Online courses shall identify practical approaches to recognizing, understanding, exploring and avoiding ethical problems confronting educators in today's society and school environment.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.