

HOUSE BILL 1246

By Calfee

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, relative to the Students' Right to Know Act.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, is amended by adding Sections 2 – 5 as a new part.

SECTION 2. This act is known and may be cited as the "Students' Right to Know Act."

SECTION 3. As used in this part:

- (1) "State university" means a four-year public institution of higher education;
- (2) "THEC" means the Tennessee higher education commission; and
- (3) "Vocational school" means a Tennessee college of applied technology or another technical or trade school that THEC authorizes to operate pursuant to chapter 7, part 20 of this title and that prepares individuals to engage in the workforce as a technician or participate in a trade or craft.

SECTION 4.

(a) THEC shall collect the following data annually:

- (1) The most in-demand jobs in the state, including starting salary and education level required for those jobs;
- (2) The average cost of attendance at each state university and each vocational school;
- (3) The average monthly student loan payment for a student at a state university or vocational school;

(4) The average three-year student loan default rate for a student at a state university or vocational school;

(5) The average total student loan debt for graduates with a bachelor's degree who attended a state university;

(6) The average graduation rate for each state university and vocational school;

(7) The completion rates for vocational schools;

(8) The number of college graduates from a state university working in an occupation that does not require a college degree;

(9) The average starting salary for bachelor's degree graduates of state universities;

(10) The average starting salary for graduates of a vocational school;

and

(11) The base pay for and benefits for enlistment in the military.

(b) THEC shall create and compile the data collected pursuant to subsection (a) in a student horizon database.

(c) The database must have the capability to search the data and compare the data to other state universities and vocational schools. The database must have the capability to correlate a specific degree at a specific state university or vocational school with the related information collected under subsection (a).

(d) THEC shall publish the student horizon database on the state's website.

SECTION 5. THEC shall publish the following data annually on the state's website:

(1) The top fifty (50) highest starting salary occupations in this state;

(2) The top twenty-five (25) most in-demand jobs in this state and their corresponding starting salaries and education requirements; and

(3) The base pay and benefits for enlistment in the military, along with the necessary armed services vocational aptitude battery (ASVAB) score by military branch and average signing bonus.

SECTION 6. THEC shall promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this act. The rules promulgated must be in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 7. This act takes effect January 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.