

HOUSE BILL 1431

By Hazlewood

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 3, Part 13; Title 49 and Title 68, relative to
water access in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) A local board of education or the governing body of a public charter school shall incorporate water bottle filling stations as part of any new construction of a school building; major renovation of a school building in which the work area for any additions to, or alterations of, the existing school building exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the aggregate area of the school building; or substantial repair, replacement, or upgrading of a school building's plumbing system or plumbing fixtures.

(b) A local board of education or the governing body of a public charter school that incorporates water bottle filling stations into a school building pursuant to subsection (a) shall place at least one (1) water bottle filling station into a school building for each two hundred (200) or fewer students; on each floor of the school building; in each wing of the school building; in each food service area; and in close proximity to gymnasiums, outdoor learning and activity areas, playgrounds, and athletic facilities.

(c) Water bottle filling stations may be integrated into water fountains.

(d) A local board of education or the governing body of a public charter school that incorporates a water bottle filling station into a public school building:

- (1) Must regularly clean and maintain the water bottle filling station; and
- (2) Shall not prohibit students from bringing a clear water bottle to school.

(e) As used in this section, "water bottle filling station" means a water dispenser accessible to students in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.) that filters, cools, and dispenses clean drinking water directly into a bottle.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.