

HOUSE BILL 1485

By White M

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, Part 1, relative to voluntary pre-k.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-103(a), is amended by deleting the punctuation "." at the end of the sentence and substituting instead the language "while meeting standards for kindergarten readiness."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-104(b), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivision (7) and by renumbering the subsequent subdivision accordingly:

(7) Meet the criteria for a "highly qualified pre-kindergarten program" as identified by the department of education;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-105, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated subsections:

(d) An LEA shall include as part of its application:

(1) A plan for ensuring coordination between voluntary pre-kindergarten classrooms and elementary schools within the LEA, with the goal of ensuring that elementary grade instruction builds upon pre-kindergarten classroom experiences;

(2) A plan for engaging parents and families of voluntary pre-kindergarten students throughout the school year; and

(3) A plan for delivering relevant and meaningful professional development to voluntary pre-kindergarten teachers, specific to ensuring a high quality pre-kindergarten experience.

(e) LEAs that receive pre-kindergarten program approval under §§ 49-6-103–49-6-110 shall utilize the pre-k/kindergarten growth portfolio model approved by the state board of education in the evaluation of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers pursuant to § 49-1-302.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated Section 49-6-108, is amended by adding the following language as subdivision (7):

(7) Approve a kindergarten entry screener that LEAs shall administer to all students entering kindergarten beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, to provide educators with baseline information about where their students are when the students enter kindergarten and to provide usable data concerning how well students have been prepared in their preschool experience.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.