

HOUSE BILL 2143

By Fitzhugh

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3; Title 4; Title 5; Title 8; Title 9; Title 10; Title 12; Title 13; Title 20; Title 29; Title 39; Title 40; Title 43; Title 49; Title 50; Title 54; Title 62; Title 63; Title 64; Title 66; Title 67 and Title 68, relative to higher education governance.

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Streamlining Higher and Postsecondary Education (SHAPE) Act".

SECTION 2. The Tennessee higher education commission and the present systems of governance of the University of Tennessee system and the board of regents system shall cease to exist on July 1, 2010.

SECTION 3. On or before the last Monday in January 2010, the Tennessee higher education commission, University of Tennessee board of trustees, and the board of regents shall individually or collectively present a plan to restructure the governance of higher education in Tennessee. Nothing in this act shall be construed to bind the general assembly to their plan or plans. The legislature shall adopt a plan that best creates opportunities for citizens of Tennessee to obtain higher education.

SECTION 4. If the plan maintains a University of Tennessee system and a board of regents system as separate entities, then such plan shall not alter the composition of the board of regents under § 49-8-201 or the University of Tennessee board of trustees under § 49-9-201 and § 49-9-202 or the terms of office of the members of the respective boards or the filling of vacancies on the boards.

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