



# *State of Tennessee*

## **PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 792**

### **SENATE BILL NO. 1974**

**By Gresham**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2470

By Dunn, White, Cepicky, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 49, relative to education.

WHEREAS, the events of 2020 related to the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to affect the students of Tennessee for at least the next twelve years; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the need for flexibility in how education is delivered to students now and in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has an obligation to be prepared to educate its students in any event, including natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee must prepare its students for productive citizenship; now, therefore,

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

#### SECTION 1.

(a) The Tennessee commission on education recovery and innovation is created to examine the short- and long-term systemic effects that the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters of 2020 have had on the state's educational systems.

(b) The commission shall advise and make recommendations to the general assembly, the state board of education, the department of education, the Tennessee higher education commission, and the state institutions of higher education on strategies to close educational gaps resulting from school closures, and to modernize the state's educational structure from kindergarten to career in order to create more flexibility in the delivery of education to students.

(c) The commission is composed of the following nine (9) members:

(1) Three (3) persons appointed by the governor;

(2) Three (3) persons appointed by the speaker of the senate; and

(3) Three (3) persons appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(d)(1) In making appointments, the appointing authorities shall strive to include directors of schools, leaders of higher education institutions, educators, and community and major business leaders.

(2) In the event of a vacancy on the commission, the respective appointing authority shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy.

(e) The commission shall submit an initial assessment of the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Tennessee's educational systems to the general assembly no later than January 1, 2021. The commission shall submit a report on the commission's actions, findings, and recommendations to the general assembly no later than January 1, 2022, and

shall submit a final report on the commission's actions, findings, and recommendations to the general assembly no later than June 30, 2022.

(f) The commission is administratively attached to the state board of education.

(g)(1) The executive director of the state board of education, or the executive director's designee, shall call the first meeting of the commission, at which time the commission shall elect a chair.

(2) The commission shall meet at least quarterly, give public notice prior to each meeting, and ensure that all meetings are open to the public.

(h) Commission members shall not receive compensation or travel reimbursement for serving on the commission.

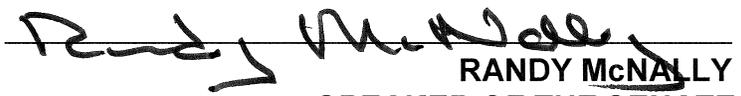
(i)(1) The commission ceases to exist on June 30, 2022.

(2) This act is repealed on July 1, 2022.

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

SENATE BILL NO. 1974

PASSED: June 17, 2020

  
RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of JULY 2020

  
BILL LEE, GOVERNOR