



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 747

SENATE BILL NO. 2549

By Gardenhire

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2522

By Akbari, Farmer, Cooper, Hardaway, Daniel, Camper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 24 and Title 49, relative to educators as witnesses.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 24, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "educator" means any person who is currently employed at any public or private elementary or secondary school in this state:

- (1) As a teacher with an active teaching license; or
- (2) As a school counselor.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, a court shall not require an educator to be a witness in any civil hearing, deposition, mediation, arbitration, trial, or other similar proceeding involving a domestic dispute matter, including, but not limited to, domestic abuse, as defined by § 36-3-601, divorce, parentage, or child custody, if the educator is not a named party and the educator's attendance would require the educator to be absent from teaching, counseling, or supervisory duties in a school, unless the court determines that the educator's attendance is necessary to ensure fairness in the hearing, mediation, arbitration, trial, or other similar matter.

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

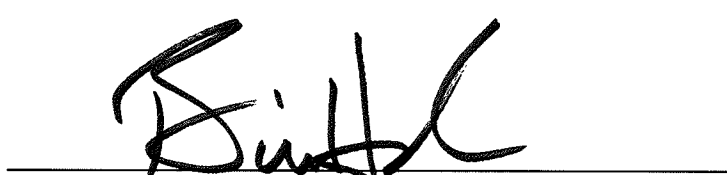
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PASSED: April 4, 2018


RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 18th day of April 2018


BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR