

HOUSE BILL 2542

By Powers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to released time courses.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-130, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(h) A public school shall, upon the request of a student's parent or legal guardian, excuse a student from school to attend a released time course in religious moral instruction for one (1) hour per school day, regardless of whether the local board of education has adopted a policy under subsection (b), if the requirements listed in subdivisions (b)(1)-(9) are met. Subsections (c)-(f) of this section apply to students attending a released time course under this subsection (h).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-130(b), is amended by deleting subdivision (4) and substituting instead the following:

(4)

(A) Any transportation to and from the place of instruction, including transportation for students with disabilities, is the responsibility of the independent entity, parent, legal guardian, or student;

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(4)(A), a local board of education that provides school transportation services for students under chapter 6, part 21 of this title may provide students attending a released time course with transportation to and from the place of instruction if the independent entity reimburses the LEA for the costs and expenses of providing the transportation services;

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to the 2020-2021 school year and each school year thereafter.