

HOUSE BILL 2603

By Sparks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 7, Part 1, relative to higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) There is hereby created a task force to:

(1) Study and evaluate the feasibility of public institutions of higher education collaborating with for-profit or nonprofit educational organizations to allow students enrolled in the institution to take remedial or general studies courses through the educational organization at a lower cost than the public institutions of higher education;

(2) Examine the academic growth of students who enroll in educational courses through private, for-profit, or nonprofit educational organizations; and

(3) Evaluate the costs of the courses through the organization in comparison to the costs at each public institution of higher education.

(b) The task force shall include, at a minimum, two (2) representatives from the Tennessee higher education commission (THEC), two (2) representatives appointed by the board of regents, two (2) representatives appointed by the University of Tennessee system, the chair of the education committee of the senate, the chair of the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives, the chair of the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives, and two (2) representatives from for-profit or nonprofit education organizations.

(c) THEC shall provide support services to the task force created under this section, including, but not limited to, facilitating communications among task force members. The executive director of THEC, or the executive director's designee shall report the task force's findings and recommendations, including recommended legislation or rules, to the education committee of the senate, the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives, and the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives by February 2, 2017. The task force shall cease to exist upon submission of the task force's report.

(d) The members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

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

it.