

HOUSE BILL 2895

By Kumar

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, relative to the nonsectarian,
nonreligious study of the Bible.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1026(b), is amended by deleting the word "curriculum" and substituting the word "course".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1026(c), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting the following:

(c)

(1) Any course for an academic study of the Bible using a curriculum developed by an LEA or a public charter school must be approved by the board of education or the public charter school governing body and comply with subsection (a).

(2) The department of education shall make available on its website:

(A) A list identifying each LEA or public charter school that offers a Bible course and that has approved curriculum pursuant to subdivision (c)(1); and

(B) The academic standards for a Bible course that have been approved by the state board of education under subsection (a).

(3) Each LEA and public charter school shall make available on its website all Bible course curricula, including a list of instructional materials developed by the LEA or public charter school that have been approved by the

board of education or public charter school governing body pursuant to subdivision (c)(1).

(4) The state board of education shall include in its list of approved high school courses the elective Bible course developed pursuant to subsection (a).

(5) The department shall notify each LEA and public charter school in writing, no later than July 1 of each year, of the LEA's or public charter school's ability to offer an elective state-funded Bible course consisting of a nonsectarian, nonreligious academic study of the Bible in accordance with this section, and the ability of each LEA to develop its own Bible course curriculum.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1026, is amended by adding the language "or public charter school" immediately following the language "LEA" wherever it appears in subsections (d) and (e).

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2024-2025 school year and subsequent school years.