

SENATE BILL 341

By Lowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to school counselors.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 3, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a)

(1) Subject to appropriation, the department shall allocate to each LEA sufficient funds for the LEA to employ one (1) full-time licensed professional school counselor position at each high school in the LEA that enrolls at least six hundred (600) students in grades ten through twelve (10-12).

(2) If an LEA employs one (1) or more part-time licensed professional school counselors at a high school that enrolls at least six hundred (600) students in grades ten through twelve (10-12), then the LEA may use any funds received pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) to employ the part-time licensed professional school counselor on a full-time basis. An LEA that converts a part-time licensed professional school counselor position to a full-time position pursuant to this subdivision (a)(2) satisfies the requirement in subsection (b).

(3) If an LEA employs one (1) full-time licensed professional school counselor for every two hundred fifty (250) student members of the LEA, then the LEA may use any funds received pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) to supplant the cost to the LEA of employing the number of full-time licensed professional school counselors required to meet the specified ratio.

(b) Each LEA shall employ one (1) full-time licensed professional school counselor at each high school for which the LEA receives funding pursuant to this section. This subsection (b) does not require an LEA that employs one (1) full-time licensed professional school counselor position for every two hundred fifty (250) student members of the LEA to employ any additional full-time licensed professional school counselor positions beyond the number required for the LEA to meet the specified ratio.

(c) The funds allocated to an LEA pursuant to this section are in addition to the funds allocated to the LEA for purposes of the TISA.

(d)

(1) The state board may promulgate rules, in consultation with the department, to establish the roles and responsibilities required of a full-time licensed professional school counselor whose position is funded pursuant to this section that exceed those required of school counselors in § 49-6-303.

(2) The state board shall promulgate rules, in consultation with the department, to establish the amount of time each full-time licensed professional school counselor whose position is funded pursuant to this section must dedicate to providing high school students the preventative and developmental counseling services required in § 49-6-303(b), one (1) or more of the counseling and guidance services listed in § 49-5-302(b), and any of the services required to comply with any additional roles and responsibilities established by the state board pursuant to subdivision (d)(1); provided, that each full-time licensed professional school counselor must dedicate at least seventy percent (70%) of the counselor's time to working directly with high school students.

SECTION 2. This act is not an appropriation of funds, and funds shall not be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general assembly.

SECTION 3. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2025-2026 school year and each school year thereafter.