

SENATE BILL 556

By Powers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 56, relative to reimbursement of assessment costs.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-5605, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(c)

(1) The department shall create a fund to reimburse an educator who receives a qualifying score on an assessment required pursuant to this section and who receives a license to teach in this state or an endorsement while currently employed by an LEA or a public charter school in this state, as applicable, in an amount equal to the cost of the required assessment.

(2) If an educator receives a qualifying score on an assessment required pursuant to this section and receives a license to teach in this state or an endorsement while currently employed by an LEA or a public charter school in this state, as applicable, then the department shall reimburse the educator in an amount equal to the cost of the required assessment from the fund established in subdivision (c)(1). The department shall not reimburse the cost of an assessment for which the educator does not receive a qualifying score.

(3) By September 1, 2024, and each September 1 thereafter, the department shall report to the state board of education the number of educators reimbursed under this section and the type of license or endorsement earned by each educator.

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

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.