

SENATE BILL 588

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7; Title 49, Chapter 8 and Title 49, Chapter 9, relative to feminine hygiene products.

WHEREAS, a survey by Thinx and PERIOD reported that two-thirds of teen students felt stressed due to the lack of period products in their schools. Further, eighty-six percent missed a class or knew someone who missed a class due to a lack of period products; and

WHEREAS, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, and Oregon are all states that fund and require period products in schools; and

WHEREAS, universities such as Belmont University have created successful period product programs, providing free and accessible period products for the student body; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "Tennessee for Tampons Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "feminine hygiene product":

(1) Means any product to be used by women with respect to menstruation or other genital-tract secretions; and

(2) Includes tampons and sanitary napkins.

(b) Public institutions of higher education shall provide feminine hygiene products in all women's and girl's bathrooms and locker rooms.

(c) Public institutions of higher education shall collaborate with the institution's student governments and building maintenance managers for the administration and restocking of feminine hygiene products in all women's and girl's bathrooms and locker rooms at the institution.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it.