

# *State of Tennessee*

## **PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 275**

### **SENATE BILL NO. 972**

**By Powers, Akbari, Campbell**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 995

By Stevens, White, Hale, Bulso, Gillespie, Haston, Hawk, Powell, Hardaway, Slater, Moody, Doggett, Miller, Cepicky, Jernigan, Helton-Haynes, Howell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to corporal punishment for students with disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-4103, is amended by designating subsection (a) as subdivision (a)(1) and adding the following as a new subdivision:

(2)(A) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), prior to the administration of corporal punishment against a student, the student's teacher or school principal must document in the student's educational record that they have:

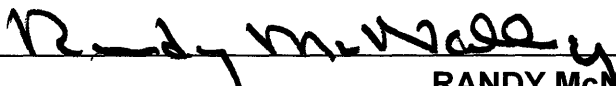
- (i) Acted to address the student's behavior;
- (ii) Provided consequences to the student to address the behavior;
- (iii) Consulted with the student's parent or legal guardian about the student's behavior; and
- (iv) Considered the need to conduct an initial evaluation to determine whether the student has a disability in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.), chapter 10 of this title, and the state board of education's rules.

(B) If, as a result of an evaluation conducted pursuant to subdivision (a)(2)(A)(iv), a student is found to have a disability, then corporal punishment may only be administered against the student if authorized in accordance with subsection (b).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 972

PASSED: April 13, 2023

  
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RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023

  
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BILL LEE, GOVERNOR