

SENATE BILL 975

By McNally

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9 and Title 49, relative to public higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated part:

**49-7-\_\_\_.**

(a) The purpose of this part is to protect and maintain the integrity of current prioritization and strategic planning processes established to best use limited state funds for public higher education toward greatest need and opportunity and to ensure prudent fiscal policy.

(b) All legislative proposals or requests for state funding toward public higher education capital projects, maintenance, new academic programs, public service, research activities and engagement opportunities or operational support coming before the general assembly shall first be considered and acted upon through established processes and procedures to review such requests; provided, however, that if such consideration or action through established processes and procedures is not possible, then such legislative proposals or requests shall be made with the knowledge of and approved by the chancellor of the board of regents or the president of the University of Tennessee. The chancellor and the president shall be accountable for ensuring that the established processes for considering and evaluating such requests are followed to the greatest extent possible.

(c) At no time shall an employee of a board of regents or University of Tennessee member institution, campus or unit advance policies or proposals requiring

public funding without the knowledge and approval of the chancellor or president of the respective system for which the request is made.

(d) The chancellor and president are expected to advance such policies or proposals through existing processes and procedures established in the spirit to maximize the state's ability to strategically plan, execute and maintain the state's public higher education obligations.

(e) The board of regents and the board of trustees of the University of Tennessee shall be authorized to take such action as each board deems reasonable and appropriate to enforce this part and that is consistent with the purpose of this part.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.