

SENATE BILL 1296

By Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13,  
Chapter 26 and Title 49, relative to certain  
character education intervention programs.

WHEREAS, the First Tennessee human resource agency in Northeast Tennessee has created the Moral Kombat program as part of its ongoing character education services to reduce delinquency and truancy among juveniles and social dependency among adults; and

WHEREAS, Moral Kombat teaches ethical decision-making processes to at-risk and troubled youth and their families; and

WHEREAS, Moral Kombat has achieved an independently-documented, astounding success rate, ranging between 82 and 93 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee association of human resource agencies can successfully pilot expansion of this program and its benefits beyond Northeast Tennessee with three-year step down grants leading to self-sufficiency; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The general assembly finds that it is in the best interest of the state and its citizens to authorize and encourage the association of human resource agencies to pilot expansion, into other areas of the state, the character education services currently provided by the First Tennessee human resource agency.

SECTION 2.

(a) The human resource agencies created in title 13, chapter 26, are authorized to apply for grants and to implement Moral Kombat or other similar character education programs of equal or greater, independently-documented efficaciousness.

(b) These character education programs shall target youth ages eleven (11) to nineteen (19) who are identified and referred to the program by the juvenile court system, public and private schools, the department of children's services or parents, guardians or other family members.

SECTION 3. At the end of each fiscal year for three (3) years, the First Tennessee human resource agency shall provide a detailed summary report including recidivism and success during implementation of this act to the house children and family affairs committee and the senate judiciary committee. In addition, a grant summary report shall be provided to such committees at the end of the third year.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.