

SENATE BILL 1366

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-122(a), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

(5) Failed to report child abuse, child neglect, or child sexual abuse when a charter school employee had knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that a child who attends the charter school may be a victim, sufficient to require mandatory reporting, pursuant to title 37, chapter 1, part 4 and § 49-6-1601, and that the abuse occurred on charter school grounds or while the child was under the supervision or care of the charter school.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-122, is amended by adding the following language as new subsections:

(e) A chartering authority shall revoke or not renew the charter agreement pursuant to subdivision (a)(5), if the parents of fifty-one percent (51%) of the children enrolled at the charter school demonstrate support for the revocation or nonrenewal by signing a petition seeking the revocation or nonrenewal of the charter school agreement. The percentage of parents signing a petition shall be calculated on the basis of one (1) vote for each child enrolled in the charter school. A revocation or non-renewal of the charter school agreement under this subsection (e) shall become effective at the close of the academic year. The charter school may be reopened as a new charter school if the chartering authority approves an charter application by a different sponsor.

(f) If the parents of fifty-one (51%) of the children enrolled at the charter school demonstrate support for revocation or nonrenewal of the charter school by signing a petition seeking the conversion of the charter school to a new charter school, then the chartering authority shall revoke or nonrenew the charter agreement at the close of the academic year in which the parents submitted the petition. The percentage of parents signing a petition shall be calculated on the basis of one (1) vote for each child enrolled in the charter school. The charter school may be reopened as a new charter school if the chartering authority approves an charter application by a different sponsor. Parents whose children are currently enrolled in the charter school shall have the option to enroll their children in another charter school or an LEA-operated school without penalty.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1601(c), is amended by deleting the language "elementary school or secondary school" and by substituting instead "elementary school, secondary school or public charter school".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 13, is amended by adding the following language as a new part:

49-13-142.

Charter schools are required to provide information and training on the requirements concerning the mandatory reporting of child abuse or child sexual abuse on school grounds, pursuant to title 37, chapter 1, part 4 and § 49-6-1601, to all charter school employees prior to the beginning of each school year.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.