

SENATE BILL 1480

By Burks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-203 and Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 3, relative to election of school superintendents.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-203(a)(14), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and redesignating the subsequent subdivision accordingly.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-301(a), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any county or municipality operating a school system shall re-establish the office of elected school superintendent.

(2) The county election commission shall hold an election for school superintendent at the regular August election of 2012 and every four (4) years thereafter. The office shall be filled by popular vote for a term of four (4) years. The person elected shall take office September 1 following the election. The elected school superintendent shall have all the powers provided to directors of schools, and any reference to "director of schools" shall be deemed to be a reference to "superintendent".

(3) This act shall not abridge any contract for a director of schools in place upon the effective date of this act. Any county or municipality operating a school system that is currently employing a director of schools by contract shall fulfill the terms of the current contract, but shall not extend such contract. At the last regular election prior to the conclusion of the current director of schools' contract term, the county election commission shall hold an election for an interim school superintendent. The term for the interim school superintendent shall be from the date of the conclusion of the current

director of schools' contract until the next election for school superintendent that occurs pursuant to this section.

(4) An elected superintendent shall be a person of literary attainment and experience in the art of teaching and school administration, and possess a license of qualification issued by the state board of education prior to the superintendent's election.

(5) The state board of education shall establish minimum requirements for license of qualifications for a superintendent, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) The applicant shall hold a teacher's professional license with endorsement as principal or supervisor of instruction;

(B) The applicant shall hold a master's degree with a major in education administration to include study areas such as:

- (i) School organization and administration;
- (ii) Supervision, curriculum development and evaluation;
- (iii) School finance, housing, and transportation;
- (iv) School and communication relationships; and
- (v) Technique of problem solving by group process; and

(C) The applicant shall have had five (5) years of experience to include both teaching and administrative experience.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring it.