

SENATE BILL 1646

By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49, Chapter 5, relative to equal access to employees by all professional employees' organizations.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 6, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-5-614.

(a) No LEA, employee of an LEA or employee organization shall deny by any means, including a collective bargaining agreement, a domestic professional employees' organization offering membership to all certificated personnel equal access to employees of the LEA, to the same extent that access is granted to other educators' organizations.

(b) Any association which utilizes LEA facilities or services for meetings or any school printing services shall reimburse the LEA for any costs incurred by the LEA at reasonable rates.

(c) For purposes of this section, "access" shall include equal access to employees of the LEA to the same extent that access is granted to other educators' associations. "Access" shall also include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Distributing information, setting up displays, or speaking at in-service or other teachers' meetings;
- (2) Distributing information and communications through the use of school mailboxes, school mail, or by electronic means;
- (3) Using LEA facilities for meetings during non-instructional time;

(4) Representing association members in employment or other legal issues when requested to do so;

(5) Posting information on LEA bulletin boards; and

(6) Utilizing LEA printing services.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-609, is amended by deleting subdivision (a)(4) and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions in subsection (a) accordingly.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.