

SENATE BILL 2011

By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8 and Title 49, relative to state administration of K-12 education.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-417, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection:

(1) A director of schools who learns of the conviction of a licensed educator employed by the LEA for any offense listed in § 39-13-532, § 39-17-417, and § 40-35-501(i)(2) must report the conviction to the state board. The state board shall set the time frame within which the director shall report a conviction of a licensed educator. The state board may specify other offenses that a director of schools is required to report upon learning of a conviction of a licensed educator employed by the LEA for such offense.

(2)

(A) The department of education, in consultation with the state board, shall develop forms to be used by directors of schools for reporting convictions of licensed educators as required under subdivision (1) and instructions and procedures to be used in filling out and filing the forms. The department shall provide to directors of schools the form, instructions, and procedures at least annually at the beginning of each school year. The department may provide directors of schools with the forms, instructions, and procedures electronically.

(B) The forms and instructions shall state the offenses for which the directors have a duty to report a conviction and the time frame in which the

required report is to be filed. When the offenses for which a director of schools must file a report change or any other change is made in the form or the instructions or procedures, the department shall notify the directors of schools and provide new forms, instructions, and procedures.

(3) The state board may reprimand a director of schools if a director fails to make a report of a criminal conviction as required by the state board. The state board shall send the letter of reprimand to the director and a copy of the letter to the local board of education.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(a)(5)(A)(iv), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead:

Discipline of licensed personnel for misconduct by formal reprimand or by the suspension and revocation of licenses and certificates;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 10, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

The state board of education has authority to adopt policies governing reprimands of educators for violations of the teacher code of ethics.

SECTION 4. Section 1 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it. Sections 2 and 3 of this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.