

SENATE BILL 2159

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2; Title 49, Chapter 3; Title 49, Chapter 5 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to testing.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) A public high school student shall not be required to take any standardized test that is not a state-mandated test or a college admissions test.

(b) A state-mandated standardized test shall not be administered to a high school student, if the high school student's parent or legal guardian requests that the student not be tested and the high school student has:

(1) A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or greater;

(2) No more than five (5) excused absences and no unexcused absences;

(3) No conduct grades of "N" or "U" on the student's report card for the year; and

(4) No disciplinary record, including no in-school or out-of-school suspensions.

(c) Students who are not being tested during a testing period when their classmates are tested shall participate in educational workshops. Educational workshops may provide additional practice for students in math, writing, or reading skills or may provide opportunities for enrichment in a subject taught by the school. In order to

staff educational workshops, the school may seek volunteers from the community who are willing to lead or participate in the workshops.

(d) In light of the enactment of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)(Pub. L. No. 114-95), which is a reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Pub. L. No. 89-10), and the changes made to the requirements for testing and accountability by the ESSA, the office of research and education accountability (OREA) in the office of the comptroller of the treasury shall update its 2002 report entitled "Multiple Choices: Testing Students in Tennessee." In updating the report, OREA shall give specific attention to whether standardized testing required by the state or LEAs has become excessive and could be reduced, thus allowing additional time for instruction. OREA shall submit the update to the report to the education committee of the senate and the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives by March 1, 2017.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.