

SENATE BILL 2549

By Burks

AN ACT to provide for directional signs for the United States Chess Federation in Crossville on Interstate 40 in Cumberland County.

WHEREAS, Crossville and Cumberland County are extremely proud to be the home of the United States Chess Federation; and

WHEREAS, the Crossville City Council has expressed a desire to share that pride with drivers passing through their community on Interstate 40; and

WHEREAS, Crossville/Cumberland County was chosen as the new home of the U.S. Chess Federation over twenty-nine other possible locations, including Atlanta, Georgia, Dallas, Texas, San Francisco, California, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, Miami, Florida, Cortland, New York, Bloomington, Minnesota, Providence, Rhode Island, Kansas City, Kansas, Indianapolis, Indiana, Louisville, Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, Newark, Delaware, Portland, Oregon, Moab, Utah, Rockford, Illinois, Salt Lake City, Utah, Leesburg, Virginia, Durango, Colorado, Toms River, New Jersey, St. Louis, Missouri, Chandler, Arizona, and Lindsborg, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Chess Federation has a membership of 80,000 chess players and supporters, and its monthly magazine, *Chess Life*, is the most widely circulated chess magazine in the world; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Chess Federation is a nonprofit corporation that partners with the U.S. Chess Trust to support chess programs in schools and hospitals and for veterans worldwide; and

WHEREAS, school students who are taught chess alongside other educational classes have improved concentration, better developed critical thinking skills, boosted memory and retention, and are able to achieve superior academic performance; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, it shall be the duty of the department of transportation to erect and maintain signs for sites of educational and cultural significance in this state, including the erection of such signs for the United States Chess Federation in Crossville on Interstate 40 at Exit 320 (State Route 298), both eastbound and westbound, in Cumberland County.

SECTION 2. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 3. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.