

SENATE BILL 2663

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to high school credit.

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 as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Final exam" means an end-of-course exam, or, if there is not an end-of-course exam for the course, then a comprehensive assessment of the course provided by an LEA; and

(2) "Qualifying score" means:

(A) An A as described in the uniform grading system adopted pursuant to § 49-6-407, if the assessment is a final exam provided by the LEA; or

(B) An on-track performance level, if the assessment is a state end-of-course exam.

(b) Notwithstanding this title to the contrary, an LEA shall grant a high school student credit for a course offered by the student's high school in which course the student is not enrolled but for which the student attains a qualifying score on the course's final exam. An LEA shall provide each student enrolled in the LEA's high school the opportunity to take a final exam for any course each semester. A student may only take a final exam pursuant to this section one (1) time for each course.

(c) High school credit earned pursuant to this section counts toward the high school graduation requirement created pursuant to § 49-6-6001(a). If a student receives a qualifying score on a final exam, then the student's qualifying score must be included in the student's overall grade point average.

(d) The state board of education shall adopt a grading scale that converts the performance level of an end-of-course exam to a letter grade. An LEA shall implement the grading scale adopted pursuant to this subsection (d) to determine a student's end-of-course score for the student's overall grade point average.

(e) A final exam administered pursuant to this section does not affect an evaluation of a teacher, principal, or school.

(f) Each LEA shall adopt and implement a policy on the implementation of this section, including, but not limited to when and how to administer the final exam for a student who is not enrolled in the course and is seeking credit pursuant to this section.

(g) An LEA shall report to the department of education at the end of each school year the following:

(1) The number of final exams administered pursuant to this section;

(2) The courses for which the final exams are administered pursuant to this section; and

(3) The grades for each of the final exams administered pursuant to this section.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2022-2023 school year and each school year thereafter.