

SENATE BILL 2703

By Harper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to low performing schools.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-614, is amended by deleting subsection (k) and substituting instead the following:

(k)

(1)

(A) A school that has been removed from the LEA and placed in the ASD shall remain in the ASD until July 1, 2019; provided, however, that charter schools authorized by the ASD and operating pursuant to a charter application approved by the ASD before the effective date of this act shall remain under the authority of the ASD until the charter agreement expires. Upon the expiration of a charter approved and authorized by the ASD before the effective date of this act, the school shall return to the LEA.

(B) Effective July 1, 2019, no school shall be directly operated by the commissioner as part of the ASD. Beginning July 1, 2018, the commissioner, in consultation with the LEA, shall develop and approve a transition plan for the purpose of planning the return of a school to the LEA.

(2) Notwithstanding this section, § 49-1-602, or chapter 13 of this title, after the effective date of this act:

(A) No school shall be assigned to the ASD; instead, priority schools shall be subject to one (1) of the following interventions as determined by the commissioner:

(i) Turnaround through an LEA-led intervention or other school improvement process, subject to approval by the commissioner; or

(ii) School turnaround under the governance of an LEA innovation zone pursuant to § 49-1-602(c); and

(B) No contract for the management or operation of a school, charter school application, or charter agreement shall be executed, approved, authorized, or renewed by the ASD.

(3) The ASD shall be abolished as an organizational unit of the department of education on the later of:

(A) July 1, 2019; or

(B) If the ASD has authorized charter schools pursuant to a charter application that was approved before the effective date of this act, then the date on which the last charter agreement expires.

(4) Notwithstanding this subsection (k), the commissioner shall have the authority to remove any school from the jurisdiction of the ASD at any time.

(5) Nothing in this section prohibits an LEA from receiving private contributions to support school turnaround efforts.

(6) For purposes of this subsection (k), "school" or "schools" includes any school or grade configuration within a school that has been assigned to the ASD.

SECTION 2. If the ASD has authorized charter schools pursuant to a charter application that was approved before the effective date of this act, then the department of education shall notify the education committee of the senate, the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives, the education instruction and programs committee of

the house of representatives, and the code commission of when the last charter agreement authorized by the ASD will expire.

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