



**State of Tennessee**  
**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1021**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3553**

**By Tracy**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3583

By Carr

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

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-104, is amended by adding the following as new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

( ) "Academic focus" means a distinctive, thematic program such as math, science, arts, general academics, or an instructional program such as Montessori or Paideia;

( ) "Academic plan" means a platform that supports the academic focus of the charter school and will include instructional goals and methods for the school, which, at a minimum, shall include teaching and classroom instruction methods, materials and curriculum that will be used to provide students with knowledge, proficiency and skills needed to reach the goals of the school.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-106(b)(1), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision (E):

(E) Preference for applications with the focus of serving students from a group or groups set forth in subdivision (b)(1)(C) shall not reduce the score of applications that demonstrate other strengths or focuses.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-107(a), is amended by adding the language "and the chartering authority" immediately following the language "department of education".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-107(b)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(1) A statement defining the mission and goals of the proposed charter school, including the proposed charter school's academic focus;

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-107(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "The proposed instructional goals and methods for the school" and by substituting instead the language "A proposed academic plan, including the instructional goals and methods for each grade level the school will serve".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-107(b)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(4) An operating budget based on anticipated enrollment; provided, however, that such operating budget shall not exceed a five-year projection;

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-108(a)(2), is amended by deleting the last sentence of the subdivision and by substituting instead the following:

The local board of education shall have thirty (30) days either to deny or to approve the amended application. Should the local board of education fail to either approve or deny the amended application within thirty (30) days, the amended application shall be deemed approved.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-108(b)(2), is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the subdivision:

The decision of the treasurer shall be final and not subject to further appeal.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-112(a), is amended by deleting the language "in February or June" and by substituting instead the language "in October, February, and June".

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-113(c), is amended by deleting the language "to the siblings of a pupil who is already enrolled and".


SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-113, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection (d) and by redesignating the remaining subsections accordingly:

(d) Subject to the requirement of subsections (a) and (b), preference may be afforded to the siblings of a pupil who is already enrolled.

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 26, 2012

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2012

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR