STATE OF TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 326

HOUSE BILL NO. 556

By Representatives Kelsey, Cooper

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 482

By Senator Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, to enact the "Education Pays Act". This act makes appropriations for monetary awards to encourage student academic achievement for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008.

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Education Pays Act".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-1-2__.

(a) As used in this section, "Education Pays reward" means a reward of cash or other thing of value given to either an individual student or his custodial parent or guardian or both in recognition of academic achievement.

(b) Each LEA is encouraged to develop an Education Pays pilot program for at-risk students to encourage student academic achievement through award of Education Pays rewards.

(c) An Education Pays pilot program may be funded through private donations. Any LEA for which a private foundation or other organization expresses willingness to fund an Education Pays pilot program shall work with such organization in developing an Education Pays pilot program in order to encourage at-risk students to achieve greater academic success through participation in the program.

(d) The state board of education is encouraged to study the effects of Education Pays rewards in Tennessee and similar programs in other states and report its findings to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate.

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

PASSED: May 18, 2009

KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 29th day of May 2009

PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR