



State of Tennessee
PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 670

HOUSE BILL NO. 368

By Representatives Dunn, White, Hensley, Faison, Lollar, Evans, McCormick, Shipley, Weaver, Eldridge, Rich, Maggart, Carr, Alexander, Floyd, Don Miller, Hill, Holt, Butt, Sparks, Powers, Cobb, Roach, Parkinson

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 893

By Senators Watson, Beavers, Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 10, relative to teaching scientific subjects in elementary schools.

WHEREAS, the general assembly finds that:

(1) An important purpose of science education is to inform students about scientific evidence and to help students develop critical thinking skills necessary to become intelligent, productive, and scientifically informed citizens;

(2) The teaching of some scientific subjects required to be taught under the curriculum framework developed by the state board of education may cause debate and disputation including, but not limited to, biological evolution, the chemical origins of life, global warming, and human cloning; and

(3) Some teachers may be unsure of the expectation concerning how they should present information when debate and disputation occur on such subjects; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 10, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) The state board of education, public elementary and secondary school governing authorities, directors of schools, school system administrators, and public elementary and secondary school principals and administrators shall endeavor to create an environment within public elementary and secondary schools that encourages students to explore scientific questions, learn about scientific evidence, develop critical thinking skills, and respond appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion about scientific subjects required to be taught under the curriculum framework developed by the state board of education.

(b) The state board of education, public elementary and secondary school governing authorities, directors of schools, school system administrators, and public elementary and secondary school principals and administrators shall endeavor to assist teachers to find effective ways to present the science curriculum taught under the curriculum framework developed by the state board of education as it addresses scientific subjects that may cause debate and disputation.

(c) Neither the state board of education, nor any public elementary or secondary school governing authority, director of schools, school system administrators, or any public elementary or secondary school principal or administrators shall prohibit any teacher in a public school system of this state from helping students understand, analyze, critique, and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in the course being taught within the curriculum framework developed by the state board of education.

(d) This section only protects the teaching of scientific information, and shall not be construed to promote any religious or non-religious doctrine, promote discrimination

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for or against a particular set of religious beliefs or non-beliefs, or promote discrimination for or against religion or non-religion.

SECTION 2. By no later than the start of the 2012-2013 school term, the department of education shall notify all directors of schools of the provisions of this act. Each director shall notify all employees within the director's school system of the provisions of this act.

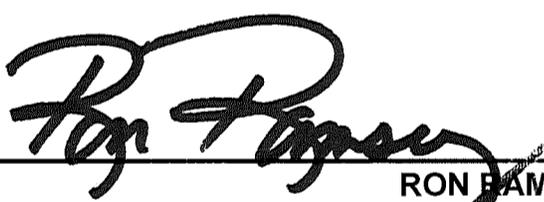
SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: MARCH 26, 2012



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this _____ day of _____ 2012

BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR



BETH HARWELL
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

House of Representatives
State of Tennessee

BETTY KAY FRANCIS
CHIEF ENGROSSING CLERK
OF THE HOUSE

HOUSE ENGROSSING
2nd FLOOR, STATE CAPITOL
TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0082
(615) 741-1100 Ext. 44971

April 10, 2012

The Honorable Tre Hargett
Secretary of State
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Mr. Secretary of State:

I am transmitting herewith House Bill No. 368, Senate Bill No. 893. The Governor received House Bill No. 368 on March 29, 2012 and returned the bill on April 10, 2012, without his signature.

Therefore, as provided for in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee House Bill No. 368, becomes law without the Governor's signature.


Betty Kay Francis
House Chief Engrossing Clerk

BKF/