



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 251

HOUSE BILL NO. 1204

By Representatives Ragan, Forgety, Lollar, Hardaway, Kane

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1021

By Senators Gresham, Briggs, Bowling, Gardenhire, Crowe, Haile

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to civic education.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly requires a course of instruction in character education as a part of the general curriculum for all public schools; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this requirement is to develop a program for positive values and improve student conduct, but no specific characteristics or structure of the program are defined; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Medal of Honor Character Development Program incorporates the ideals of courage and selfless service into the middle and high school curriculum to build character and promote responsible citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Medal of Honor Character Development Program uses stories of Medal of Honor recipients as a platform for teaching students about character while they also practice important academic skills, such as writing, critical thinking, analysis of complex texts, and the use of primary and secondary sources in forming an argument; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Medal of Honor Character Development Program has been endorsed by a number of school systems across this nation; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Medal of Honor Character Development Program is provided for free, online, and is accessible by any public school, and was developed by school teachers for school teachers by unit and lesson plans; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee approximately 550 teachers, representing some 200 schools, have already attended formal training on the Congressional Medal of Honor Character Development Program; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1007, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection:

Local education agencies are authorized and encouraged to adopt as their course of instruction in character education the Congressional Medal of Honor Character Development Program. This program may be adopted for the appropriate grade levels and integrated into a number of academic subjects, including, but not limited to, government, contemporary issues, history, sociology, psychology, language arts, leadership, and mathematics.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 13, 2015



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 24th day of April 2015



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR