



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 272

SENATE BILL NO. 1373

By Yager

Substituted for: House Bill No. 307

By Powers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to released time courses.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-130(b), is amended by deleting the language "up to one (1) class period during each school week" and substituting instead the language "no more than one (1) class period per school day".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-130, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(g)(1) A local board of education may adopt a policy to award students credit for work completed in a released time course that is substantiated by a transcript from the entity that provided the released time course. If a board adopts a policy in accordance with this subsection (g), then a student may be awarded one-half (1/2) unit of elective credit for the completion of each released time course.

(2) In order to determine whether elective credit may be awarded for the student's completion of a released time course, the local board of education shall evaluate the course in a neutral manner that does not involve any test for religious content or denominational affiliation. For purposes of this subsection (g), the secular criteria used to evaluate a released time course may include:

(A) The amount of classroom instruction time;

(B) The course syllabus, which reflects the course requirements and any materials used in the course;

(C) Methods of assessment used in the course; and

(D) Whether the course was taught by an instructor licensed pursuant to chapter 5 of this title.


SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 18, 2019



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



GLEN CASADA, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 30th day of April 2019



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR