



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
BLUE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Naomi Betapudi, Katie Lam
School: St. Mary's**

AN ACT TO INCREASE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEW TEACHERS' STIPEND

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

2
3 Section 1: Definition of terms:

4 a) Stipend is a predetermined amount of money paid to certain individuals, in
5 this case, new teachers, to help offset some of their expenses.

6 b) New teacher is a full-time, K-12 teacher completely new to the teaching
7 field.

8
9 Section 2: Teachers are given only \$100 to spend for instructional supplies
10 on October 31st of the school year. Prior to this date, most teachers are
11 spending out-of-pocket money to provide for their students.

12
13 Section 3: If enacted, this bill will provide a \$500 minimum stipend for new
14 public school teachers.

15
16 Section 4: This bill would allow new teachers to buy school supplies such as
17 pencils, paper, posters, and other classroom necessities.

18
19 Section 5: There are 78,000 public school teachers in Tennessee, and of that
20 number, 13,260, or 17%, are new teachers.

21
22 Section 5: This bill would cost \$5.5 million, less than 0.1% of Tennessee's
23 annual education budget, and would be funded by the Tennessee Department
24 of Education.

25
26 Section 6: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

27
28 Section 7: This act shall take effect August 1, 2021, the public welfare
29 requiring it.



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**Sponsors: Danelli Lara-Garcia, Monica Prado
School: Collegiate**

An Act to Enforce Just Review Under Death Penalty Cases

1 Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

2

3 Section 1: Terms in this act shall be defined as followed:

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4 a.) Death Penalty - a punishment of execution to a person convicted of a
5 capital crime.

5

6 b.) Court of Appeals - a court to which appeals are taken into federal circuit
7 or a state

7

8

9 Section 2: If enacted this bill will ensure that each court case is justly served.
10 Either it shall decrease executions or increase executions, but it will better
11 ensure that not one person is wrongly convicted of a crime.

10

11

12

13 Section 3:

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14 When a person is convicted of a criminal act in a court of law that person has
15 the constitutional right to appeal their conviction. However, while the courts
16 are legally required to appoint a lawyer for a general sessions criminal trial
17 no lawyer is appointed for an appeal. The effect of this being that generally
18 only wealthier individuals can afford to appeal a criminal conviction. This of
19 course has obvious racial implications as people of color are less likely to file
20 an appeal in a criminal court case. This law seeks to mandate that criminal
21 convictions resulting in a sentence of death be automatically accepted to the
22 TN Court of Appeals for review and that the state of TN provide a court
23 appointed lawyer for people who are unable to provide their own counsel.

19

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25 As of March 2021, there are 49 convicted prisoners on Death Row in TN. The
26 average inmate is on death row for 15 years. The average cost of
27 incarcerating a prisoner on death row is \$90,000 a year. This bill seeks to
28 lessen the time a prisoner will spend on death row, by speeding up the
29 appeals process.

25

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31 In addition this bill seeks to fulfill the 5th Amendment of the US Constitution
32 which provides a speedy trial for all people charged with criminal acts. This
33 bill will seek to cut an inmate's time on death row in half, by providing a
34 speedy appeals trial, which will either exonerate the criminal, lessen their
35 sentence, or confirm the lower court's sentence of death.

31

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37 Section 4: The cost of this bill to the state of Tennessee will be nothing.
38
39 The state of Tennessee already funds the TN State Court of Appeals,
40 meaning it will not put the Government and its people into further debt. The
41 passage of this bill may bump other criminal appeals lower down in the order
42 of hearing; however, the issue at hand, the sentence of death, is a matter
43 which should take precedent.
44
45 Section 5: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.
46
47 Section 6: This act shall take effect upon enactment, the public welfare
48 requiring it.



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**Sponsors: Henry House, Drews Twiford, Ryan Scott
School: ECS**

An Act to Provide Bike Only Lanes for Cyclists

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

2

3 Section 1: Terms used in this act unless the context requires otherwise shall
4 be defined as follows: a) Cycling Lane: A lane created for use by cyclists only.
5 It must be at least 10 feet away from any road.

6

7 Section 2: Acknowledging that it is very dangerous for cyclists to ride on the
8 road, this bill provides for the creation of cycling lanes.

9

10 Section 3: Cycling lanes will be made 10 feet away from any road that has a
11 speed limit at or over 45 miles per hour.

12

13 Section 4: Cyclists must follow the same laws vehicles do. Cycling on main
14 roads is only permitted when there is no cycling lane on the road.

15

16 Section 5: A \$125 ticket will be given to any cyclist who does not follow this
17 law.

18

19 Section 6: Cycling lanes will be funded by 15% of traffic tickets in Tennessee,
20 until the lanes are completely funded.

21

22 Section 7: When signed into law, this bill will go into effect on July 1, 2022

23



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**Sponsors: Sam Scull, Chloe Cotten
School: ECS**

An Act to Require Debate in Public Tennessee High Schools

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2

3 Section 1: Terms used in this act, unless the context requires otherwise,
4 shall be defined as follows:

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6 Debate - a formal discussion on a particular topic in a public meeting in
7 which opposing arguments are put forward.

8

9 Curriculum - the subjects comprising a course of study in a school

10

11 Section 2: Social trends in the nation point to a growing need for the study of
12 public debate. With much of the current curriculum devoted to the
13 memorization of dates, formulas and facts, students have either lost the
14 ability to form independent opinions or do not feel they have a voice to
15 express them. The heightened political climate in our nation has left many
16 feeling that unpopular opinions are synonymous with hate speech, and that
17 anyone who disagrees with their opinion has disrespected them.

18

19 Section 3: The study of debate helps students in many ways. 1. It helps their
20 public speaking skills. 2. It helps them articulate their thoughts. 3. It encourages
21 research into varying opinions. 4. It helps students face disagreement in a
22 healthy, structured format. 5. It helps students gain critical thinking tools.

23

24 Section 4: In Tennessee, debate is most commonly an extracurricular club
25 attended after school and most often within the private school system. No
26 official system exists to teach debate as a class in the public school system,
27 where students finding their voice is incredibly difficult.

28

29 Section 5: If enacted, debate would be added to the core curriculum for
30 graduation in the State of Tennessee. The course would serve as a one
31 semester elective to be taken at any point in their high school career.

32

33 Section 6: This bill would have minimal financial cost to the State of Tennessee
34 other than the initial cost of \$100,000 to research and establish the curriculum.

35

36 Section 7: All laws are parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

37

38 Section 8: This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



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**Sponsors: Karsyn Ford, Campbell Palleria
School: ECS**

Mandatory Cardiovascular Screening for High School Athletes

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:
2

3 Section 1: Terms used in this act unless the context requires otherwise shall
4 be defined as follows:

- 5 a) EKG: an electrocardiogram - a noninvasive test of electrical activity in the
6 heart.
- 7 b) Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD): is a sudden, unexpected death caused by
8 loss of heart function.
- 9 c) TSSAA: Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association.

10
11 Section 2: This bill would require all students participating in TSSAA sports in
12 their first and third year of participation to get EKG screenings along with
13 yearly physicals. This would identify athletes at risk for sudden cardiac death.
14

15 Section 3: The cardiovascular screening would also include: an evaluation
16 that includes questions about family and personal history, including heart-
17 related symptoms such as fainting or chest discomfort a physical exam in
18 which doctors measure blood pressure and check the blood vessels and
19 heart, including listening for heart murmurs This screening would flag
20 individuals who should be referred to a cardiologist for further evaluation.
21

22 Section 4: This will not cost the State of Tennessee any money. Athletes pay
23 for their own sports physicals. An EKG costs \$15. A government grant will be
24 available for students unable to pay.
25

26 Section 5: All laws or parts of law in conflict with this bill are hereby
27 repealed.
28

29 Section 6: When signed into law, this bill will go into effect on July 1, 2021
30



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**Sponsors: Henry Crosby, Lucas Cox, Katelyn Rude, Sarah Veazey
School: ECS**

An Act to Promote School Choice

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2

3 Section 1: Terms used in this act, unless the the context requires otherwise,
4 shall be defined as follows:

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6 A. School Choice- is a term for pre-college public education options,
7 describing a wide array of programs offering students and their families
8 voluntary alternatives to publicly provided schools, to which students are
9 generally assigned by the location of their family residence.

10

11 B. Promote- further the progress of (something, especially a cause, venture,
12 or aim); support or actively encourage.

13

14 Section 2: Currently, school districts are paid a set price per student for the
15 education of that child. The price is set by the Basic Education Program and
16 uses various factors such as attendance to distribute school funding. The
17 price per student on average is about \$9,600 per pupil.

18

19 Section 3: Sadly, 65% of Tennessee schools are falling behind. Literacy
20 Rates stand at 86.80%. The Achievement-Level Percentages and Average
21 Score Results for Tennessee are 36% below the national average. Children
22 who are sent to failing schools because of where their primary residence is
23 are being cheated out of a better life.

24

25 Section 4: Children in low income communities cannot afford private
26 education and are therefore locked into failing districts. Public schools have
27 been closed during the pandemic. Private schools have been open.

28

29 Section 5: If enacted, a school choice voucher system would be put into
30 place. Tthe funds allocated by the state for the education of the child will be
31 set aside to be used at the discretion of the parents. At the beginning of the
32 school year, the parent will inform the Department of Education directly
33 which school their child will attend. This decision will apply to that school
34 year.

35

36 Section 6: The funds will follow the student either to a public school district
37 or to a private school. All funds needed to send the student to a private

36 institution in excess of the state allocation will be the sole responsibility of
37 the guardians of the child.

38

39 Section 7: The act would require no additional costs to the state of
40 Tennessee, but it would require reallocation of expenditures within the
41 Department of Education budget.

42

43 Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby
44 repealed .

45

46 Section 9: This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2021, or the beginning of the
47 fiscal year.



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**Sponsors: Aadil Omer, Madoc Michael
School: MUS**

An Act to Provide Food for Homeless Shelters

1 Section 1) Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

- 2 a) Best By Dates: the dates recommended that you use the product by for
- 3 best taste
- 4 b) Food Deserts: an urban area in which it is difficult to buy affordable or
- 5 good-quality fresh food
- 6 c) Rainy Day Fund: budget set aside by the government to cover for
- 7 whatever it may deem worthy
- 8 d) Tax Cuts: a reduction in the rate of tax charged by a government

9

10 Section 2) This act will allow provisions for homeless shelters from various
11 food stores etc., and as defined in section 1, food they consider expired can
12 be donated to homeless shelters.

13

14 Section 3) In addition, a new division of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
15 will be added. This new division will consist of food inspection programs that
16 will inspect the food that will be going to these homeless shelters.

17

18 Section 4) The initial cost of this bill will be \$120 million, acquired from the Rainy
19 Day Fund. In the years following, the net cost will be on a decreasing scale
20 because the formation of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Food Inspection
21 Division, which will also be paid for by the Rainy Day Fund, will be complete.

22

23 Section 5) The money from the Rainy Day Fund, as mentioned in Section 3,
24 will go toward transportation of food and the formation of the Tennessee
25 Bureau of Investigation. The set money in the Tennessee Rainy Day Fund for
26 the 2021-2022 year is \$1.5 billion.

27

28 Section 6) If a company does not comply, offer tax cuts for those locations so
29 that they have incentive to comply. This money will be covered by the Rainy
30 Day Fund. Not only will there be an incentive to comply, but by enforcing
31 these cuts, the economy will most likely rise because it will boost spending.

32

33 Section 7: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

34

35 Section 8: This law will be put into force upon passage, the public welfare
36 requiring it.