

**SENATE BILL 255**

By Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2; Title 4; Title 8; Title 36; Title 37; Title 38; Title 40; Title 41; Title 49; Title 50; Title 54; Title 55; Title 62; Title 63 and Title 68, relative to high school equivalency credentials.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-12-116(1), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-3-1421, is amended by deleting the language "general educational development (GED(R)) credential" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-10-102(a)(1)(C)(ii), is amended by deleting the language "general educational development certificate (GED(R))" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-5-112(a)(2), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-213(1), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-8-106(3), is amended by deleting the language "its equivalent, which shall include a general educational development (GED(R)) certificate" and substituting "a high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-35-505, is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diplomas" and substituting "high school equivalency credentials".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-36-302(a)(4), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R)" and substituting "adult education to include preparation and testing toward obtaining a high school equivalency credential,".

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-4-142(b)(1), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or other scholastic testing" and substituting "adult education programing to include preparation and testing toward obtaining a high school equivalency credential,".

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-702(15)(B)(v), is amended by deleting the language "the GED(R)" and substituting "a high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-202(a)(4), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(c)(1)(A)(iii), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R) diploma" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 13. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(c)(1)(C), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R) diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 14. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 15. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by deleting subdivisions (20) and (26).

SECTION 16. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-905(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 17. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908(a), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R) credential" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 18. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908(a)(4), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency".

SECTION 19. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-918, is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 20. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-926(a), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 21. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-929(b), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 22. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-937(a), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 23. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-111(a), is amended by deleting the language ", GED(R), or HiSET(R)" and substituting "or high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 24. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2403(4)(I), is amended by deleting the language ", a GED(R) or other alternatives to high school completion" and substituting "or obtainment of a high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 25. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2409(b), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R) classes" and substituting "Adult education programming to include preparation toward obtaining a high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 26. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3001(c)(2)(B), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 27. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3017(b)(1), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 28. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3017(d), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R), HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 29. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3050, is amended by deleting the language ", GED(R), or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "or high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 30. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6001(g), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 31. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-101(c), is amended by deleting the language "GED certificate" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 32. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-8-104(b)(1)(C), is amended by deleting the language "diploma" and substituting "credential".

SECTION 33. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-9-105(b)(1)(C), is amended by deleting the language "diploma" and substituting "credential".

SECTION 34. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-207(3)(B)(i), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 35. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-208(i)(2), is amended by deleting the language "general education development (GED(R)) classes and testing" and substituting "adult education to include preparation and testing toward obtaining a high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 36. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-7-104(h), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma (GED)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 37. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-7-104(j), is amended by deleting the language "GED shall only be deemed to be satisfied if the candidate can demonstrate that the candidate has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent in educational training as recognized by the state board of education by providing the board with the candidate's diploma, GED certificate or other official documentation" and substituting "high school equivalency credential is only deemed to be satisfied if the candidate can demonstrate that the candidate has obtained a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential as recognized by the state board of education by providing the board with the candidate's diploma, high school equivalency credential, or other official documentation".

SECTION 38. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-10-419(g)(2)(F)(ii), is amended by deleting the language "GED course work" and substituting "adult education programming to include preparation toward obtaining a high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 39. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-3-110(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R) diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 40. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-4-110(c)(2)(A)(i), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma (GED(R))" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 41. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-5-305(b)(5), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) recognized by a state education department" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 42. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-5-307(b)(5), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) recognized by a state education department" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 43. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-5-312(b)(4), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) recognized by a state education department" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 44. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-6-305(2), is amended by deleting the language "general education development (GED(R)) certificate" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 45. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-13-303(a)(2), is amended by deleting the language "general educational development (GED(R)) certificate" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 46. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-18-109, is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma (GED(R))" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 47. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-19-111(c)(3), is amended by deleting the language ", general equivalency diploma (GED(R)), or HiSET(R) diploma" and substituting "or high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 48. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-109(2), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 49. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-127(e)(2), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 50. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-244(e)(2), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 51. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-102-143(a)(2)(A), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) certificate" and substituting "high school equivalency credential".

SECTION 52. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Sponsor

**FILED**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Comm. Amdt. \_\_\_\_\_

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 255**

**House Bill No. 74\***

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-12-116(1), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-3-1421, is amended by deleting the language "general educational development (GED(R)) credential" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-3-1422, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting instead:

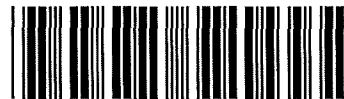
(b) The department of labor and workforce development may make recommendations to the state board of education relative to assessments or criteria leading to the award of a high school equivalency credential. The department may, as needed, consult with or request assistance from other state agencies in performing its duties under this section. The state board shall review the department's recommendations. Successful completion of any assessment or criteria approved by the state board pursuant to this subsection (b) must lead to the award of a high school equivalency credential from the department.

(c) The state board of education may promulgate rules to effectuate this section. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-10-102(a)(1)(C)(ii), is amended by



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deleting the language "general educational development certificate (GED(R))" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-5-112(a)(2), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-213(1), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) preparation" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-8-106(3), is amended by deleting the language "its equivalent, which shall include a general educational development (GED(R)) certificate" and substituting "a high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-35-505, is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diplomas" and substituting "high school equivalency credentials approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-36-302(a)(4), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R)" and substituting "adult education programming that includes preparation and testing toward obtaining a high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education,".

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-4-142(b)(1), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or other scholastic testing" and substituting "adult education programming that includes preparation and testing toward obtaining a high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-702(15)(B)(v), is amended by deleting the language "the GED(R)" and substituting "a high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-202(a)(4), is amended by

deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 13. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(c)(1)(A)(iii), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R) diploma" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 14. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-708(c)(1)(C), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R) diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 15. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 16. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by deleting subdivisions (20) and (26).

SECTION 17. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-905(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 18. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908(a), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R) credential" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 19. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908(a)(4), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 20. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-918, is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 21. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-926(a), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school

equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 22. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-929(b), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 23. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-937(a), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 24. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-111(a), is amended by deleting the language ", GED(R), or HiSET(R)" and substituting "or high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 25. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2403(4)(l), is amended by deleting the language ", a GED(R) or other alternatives to high school completion" and substituting "or obtainment of a high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 26. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2409(b), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R) classes" and substituting "Adult education programming that includes preparation toward obtaining a high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 27. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3001(c)(2)(B), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 28. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3017(b)(1), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 29. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3017(d), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R), HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 30. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3050, is amended by deleting the language ", GED(R), or HiSET(R)" wherever it appears and substituting "or high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 31. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6001(g), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 32. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-101(c), is amended by deleting the language "GED certificate" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 33. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-8-104(b)(1)(C), is amended by deleting the language "diploma" and substituting "credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 34. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-9-105(b)(1)(C), is amended by deleting the language "diploma" and substituting "credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 35. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-207(3)(B)(i), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 36. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-208(i)(2), is amended by deleting the language "general education development (GED(R)) classes and testing" and substituting "adult education programming that includes preparation and testing toward obtaining a high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 37. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-7-104(h), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma (GED)" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 38. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-7-104(j), is amended by deleting the language "GED shall only be deemed to be satisfied if the candidate can demonstrate that

the candidate has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent in educational training as recognized by the state board of education by providing the board with the candidate's diploma, GED certificate or other official documentation" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education is only deemed to be satisfied if the candidate can demonstrate that the candidate has obtained a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential as recognized by the state board of education by providing the board with the candidate's diploma, high school equivalency credential, or other official documentation".

SECTION 39. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-10-419(g)(2)(F)(ii), is amended by deleting the language "GED course work" and substituting "adult education programming that includes preparation toward obtaining a high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 40. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-3-110(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) or HiSET(R) diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 41. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-4-110(c)(2)(A)(i), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma (GED(R))" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 42. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-5-305(b)(5), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) recognized by a state education department" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 43. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-5-307(b)(5), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) recognized by a state education department" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 44. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-5-312(b)(4), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) recognized by a state education department" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 45. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-6-305(2), is amended by deleting the language "general education development (GED(R)) certificate" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 46. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-13-303(a)(2), is amended by deleting the language "general educational development (GED(R)) certificate" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 47. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-18-109, is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma (GED(R))" wherever it appears and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 48. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-19-111(c)(3), is amended by deleting the language ", general equivalency diploma (GED(R)), or HiSET(R) diploma" and substituting "or high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 49. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-76-202(a)(1), is amended by deleting the language "its equivalent, which shall include a general educational development (GED®) certificate" and substituting instead "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 50. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-109(2), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 51. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-127(e)(2), is amended by deleting the language "general equivalency diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 52. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-16-104(a)(3), is amended by deleting the language "high school or secondary school equivalency, such certificate being duly certified by state educational authorities" and substituting instead "a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 53. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-244(e)(2), is amended by

deleting the language "general equivalency diploma" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 54. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-102-143(a)(2)(A), is amended by deleting the language "GED(R) certificate" and substituting "high school equivalency credential approved by the state board of education".

SECTION 55. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.