AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 1, relative to voluntary pre-kindergarten.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-103(a), is amended by deleting the punctuation "." at the end of the sentence and substituting instead the language "while meeting standards for kindergarten readiness."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-104(b), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivision (7) and by renumbering the subsequent subdivision accordingly:

(7) Meet the criteria for a "highly qualified pre-kindergarten program" as identified by the department of education;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-105, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated subsections:

(d) An LEA shall include as part of its application:

(1) A plan for ensuring coordination between voluntary pre-kindergarten classrooms and elementary schools within the LEA, with the goal of ensuring that elementary grade instruction builds upon pre-kindergarten classroom experiences;

(2) A plan for engaging parents and families of voluntary pre-kindergarten students throughout the school year; and

(3) A plan for delivering relevant and meaningful professional development to voluntary pre-kindergarten teachers, specific to ensuring a high quality pre-kindergarten experience.

(e) LEAs that receive pre-kindergarten program approval under §§ 49-6-103–49-6-110 shall utilize the pre-k-kindergarten growth portfolio model approved by the state board of education in the evaluation of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers pursuant to § 49-1-302.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-108, is further amended by adding the following language as subdivision (8):

(8) Annually make available to each LEA the applications submitted by the top performing pre-K programs across the state as determined by the ability to meet the criteria of being a highly qualified pre-K program, the results of site visits, and other indicators as determined by the department of education.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.
SENATE BILL NO. 1899
March 21, 2016

PASSED: March 21, 2016

RAN RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

BETH HARWELL
SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 10th day of April 2016

BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR