



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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226 Capitol Boulevard Bldg., Suite 508
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0760
Phone: (615) 741-3012
Fax: (615) 532-2443
www.tn.gov/tacir

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Lynnise Roehrich-Patrick
Executive Director

DATE: 28 January 2015

SUBJECT: School Board Budget Line-item Authority for City Councils and County Commissions (Senate Bill 1935 by Johnson)—Final Report

The attached Commission report is submitted for your approval. The report responds to Senate Bill 1935 by Johnson (House Bill 2250 by Casada), which was referred to the Commission for study by the Senate State and Local Government Committee of the 108th General Assembly. The bill would have given certain local legislative bodies authority to alter or revise administrative line items within school systems' budgets when administrative spending exceeds 10% of the total. Under current law, local legislative bodies can revise only the total budget amount. The report includes information about a related bill that would have allowed the same local legislative bodies to alter or revise line items of proposed education budgets if line items were allocated for lobbying expenditures. That bill made it to the full House and Senate but failed in the House on a close vote and was not voted on by the Senate. The report describes issues raised by both bills and explains the Commission's recommendation that authority over specific line items within school budgets remain with the elected school boards.