AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, relative to the Tennessee Choice & Opportunity Scholarship Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 2018 TENNESSEE 4-H CONGRESS:

Section 1: This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Choice & Opportunity Scholarship Act."

Section 2: This bill allows Tennessee students access to alternatives other than the local public school to which they are assigned. School choice options include open enrollment at public schools, magnet schools, charter schools, and access to private schools through a public funded voucher program.

Section 3: This bill establishes a voucher program for eligible students to attend participating K-12 schools. An "eligible student" is a student who:
- Resides in Tennessee and is zoned to attend or enroll in a public school that, at the time of the student’s initial application for a voucher, is identified as being in the bottom five percent of schools in overall achievement;
- Meets the minimum age requirements to attend kindergarten with eligibility extending until the student graduates from high school;
- Is a member of a household whose annual income during the year prior to initial receipt of a scholarship met the requirements for free or reduced price lunch.

Section 4: In order to participate in the voucher program, the school must:
- Annually administer state assessments or nationally recognized tests approved by the state board of education that measure educational progress, and provide the parents of voucher students with the results of the assessments;
- Provide the department of education with graduation rates of voucher students as well as other student information as required by the department;
- Accept the voucher as payment in full for the cost of tuition and fees that would otherwise be charged by the school and allow voucher students to remain enrolled in the school for the duration of the school year at no additional cost if the school withdraws from the program during the school year;

Section 5: This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approved by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming law.

Passed: ___________________________  Speaker of the Senate
                                               Tennessee 4-H Congress

                                               Speaker of the House of Representatives
                                               Tennessee 4-H Congress

Approved: ___________________________  Governor
                                               Tennessee 4-H Congress