

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 56

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION relative to compensation of adjunct faculty at the public institutions of higher education in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, according to data compiled by the Southern Regional Education Board in 2015-2016, adjunct faculty in Tennessee accounted for 17.2 percent of the total instructional faculty at public four-year institutions and 62.7 percent of the total instructional faculty at public two-year institutions; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, adjunct faculty in Tennessee had not received increased compensation for approximately two decades at the community college level and approximately three decades at the university level within the Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of adjunct faculty to the mission of public colleges and universities of Tennessee, the University of Memphis proposed a 40 percent increase in minimum adjunct faculty pay in June 2016, from \$1,500 for a three-credit-hour course to \$2,100; and

WHEREAS, that same year, Chattanooga State Community College also sought to address the issue of low pay for adjunct faculty, which was then between \$310 and \$490 per credit hour at its institution; and

WHEREAS, the first increase in more than two decades, Chattanooga State proposed a 25-40 percent increase, moving to a range of \$400 to \$700 per credit hour for adjunct faculty; and

WHEREAS, the fact that compensation for adjunct faculty at the four-year and two-year public institutions of higher education in Tennessee had not been increased over decades is a

failure to recognize the vital importance of the work of adjunct faculty to the mission of higher education in our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, the Local Governing Institutes, and the Tennessee Board of Regents are urged to annually review their efforts to provide adequate compensation to the adjunct faculty of the public institutions of higher education in Tennessee in an effort to eventually establish parity with full-time faculty.