

## **2013 Bills that PET supported and were passed:**

### **Public Chapter # 222, Student Self-defense bill**

*Specifies that a student may be excused from disciplinary action if the student is determined, after an investigation, to have acted in self-defense under a reasonable belief that the student, or another to whom the student was coming to the defense of, may have been facing the threat of imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, which the student honestly believed to be real at that time.*

### **Public Chapter # 275, Teacher Association State President Release-time bill**

*Makes it "permissive" for a school system to grant a "state" professional employees' organization's (PEO) representative "release-time" from their duties in the classroom. If granted, it will be "unpaid" with the PEO reimbursing the LEA any expenses incurred via such action and the teacher will not accrue any sick leave or personal and professional leave time. Also, they will not receive advancement on the salary scale while away from their classroom duties. PEO must have a minimum of 1,000 dues paying members to qualify.*

### **Public Chapter # 383, Local Association President Paid Release-time bill**

*If a school system grants a "local" professional employees' organization's (PEO) representative "release-time" from their duties in the classroom, it will be "unpaid" with the PEO reimbursing the LEA any expenses incurred via such action. Time assisting a teacher with a grievance or disciplinary action does not count.*

### **Public Chapter # 442, Assault on a Teacher bill**

*Modifies existing law where a student shall be suspended for a year for committing "battery" upon a school employee to read they shall be suspended for a year for committing "aggravated assault" upon a school employee. Needed because "battery" is not defined in Tennessee Code and "aggravated assault" is.*

## **2012 Bills that PET supported and were passed:**

### **Public Chapter # 701, Use of reasonable force bill**

*Allows school employees to "relocate" students who are creating an unsafe situation by their actions and allows school employees to interject themselves into a situation where students are fighting and gives them the ability to use "reasonable force" against a student or students if necessary.*

## **2011 Bills that PET supported and were passed:**

### **Public Chapter # 135, College Equal Access bill**

*If a public institution of higher education allows any professional educators organization an opportunity to speak with student teachers, then they are required to offer the same opportunity to all such organizations.*

### **Public Chapter # 280, Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System Board member bill**

*The three (3) active teacher and one (1) retired teacher positions on the TCRS board are now appointed by the Speakers of the House and the Senate instead of being elected by the TEA at their annual meeting.*

## **2010 Bills that PET supported and were passed:**

### **Public Chapter # 916, Teacher Code of Ethics bill**

*Prior to this bill's passage, the code of ethics that "all" Tennessee teachers were required to obey were "written" and "owned" by the TEA. This bill required the State of Tennessee to develop their own set of ethics for all Tennessee teachers to abide by, which are now listed in the Tennessee Code Annotated.*