

HOUSE BILL 2724

By Campfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 4, Part 1, relative to the purchase of
bottled water by state governmental entities.

WHEREAS, many state operated or owned offices provide bottled water for the workers and visitors in such buildings; and

WHEREAS, the cost of bottled water, which includes costs for bottling, marketing, transportation, and delivery, is exorbitant when compared to water obtained from municipal and private water treatment systems; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have found that tap water is as safe or safer than bottled water; and

WHEREAS, bottled water containers are often thrown away, reducing vital capacity in landfills and despoiling Tennessee's pristine landscape when emptied containers are carelessly tossed outside; and

WHEREAS, when state revenues are especially constrained by a languishing state economy it is vital to pursue all practicable savings and economic efficiencies; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as new sections thereto:

Section 4-4-126. The department of general services is directed not to enter into or renew any contract or agreement to provide bottled water for any building for which it provides services.

Section 4-4-127. No department, agency, commission, council, board, or other state governmental entity shall expend funds from state revenues to purchase bottled

water. This section shall not be construed to interfere with any existing contract; provided, that no contract for the purchase of bottled water shall be renewed after the effective date of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.