

STATE OF TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 335

SENATE BILL NO. 1530

By Burchett, Finney, Ketron, Burks

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1260

By Tindell, Montgomery, Pitts

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 15; Title 37, Chapter 1; Title 39, Chapter 15 and Title 40, Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to jurisdiction over prosecutions of child abuse and neglect cases.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-103, is amended by deleting subdivision (a)(4) and substituting instead the following:

(4) Prosecutions under § 37-1-412, unless the case is bound over to the grand jury by the juvenile court or the defendant is originally charged with a greater offense of which violation of § 37-1-412, is a lesser included offense;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-15-401, is amended by deleting subdivision (c)(2) and substituting instead the following:

(A) As provided in this subdivision, juvenile courts, courts of general session, and circuit and criminal courts, shall have concurrent jurisdiction to hear violations of this section.

(B) If the person pleads not guilty, the juvenile judge or general sessions judge shall have the power to bind the person over to the grand jury, as in cases of misdemeanors under the criminal laws of this state. Upon being bound over to the grand jury, the person may be prosecuted on an indictment filed by the district attorney general and, notwithstanding § 40-13-103, a prosecutor need not be named on the indictment.

(C) On a plea of not guilty, the juvenile court judge or general sessions judge shall have the power to proceed to hear the case on its merits, without the intervention of a jury, if the person requests a hearing in juvenile court or general sessions court and expressly waives, in writing, indictment, presentment, grand jury investigation and a jury trial.

(D) If the person enters a plea of guilty, the juvenile court or general sessions court judge shall sentence the person under this section.

(E) Regardless of whether the person pleads guilty or not guilty, the circuit court or criminal court shall have the power to proceed to hear the case on its merits, and, if found guilty, to sentence the person under this section.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 18, 2009



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 1st day of June 2009



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR