

STATE OF TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 391

HOUSE BILL NO. 1212

By Representatives Coley, John DeBerry, Todd, McManus, Cooper, Sherry Jones, Larry Turner, Towns, Lois DeBerry, Camper, Richardson, Miller, Kernell, Lollar, Hardaway, Moore, Favors

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1094

By Senators Stanley, Marrero, Ford

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 15, Part 50, relative to domestic violence.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 15, Part 50, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 16-15-5014.

(a) In order to maximize and concentrate limited prosecutorial, counseling and other social resources to victims of domestic violence, the tenth division of the Shelby County general sessions court shall serve as the domestic violence court for Shelby County.

(b) Provided that the caseload of such domestic violence court does not exceed the capacity of the tenth division to hear all such cases, the tenth division of the Shelby County general sessions court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over matters involving domestic violence, orders of protection, domestic assault and all other cases incident to domestic abuse as defined in § 36-3-601; provided, however, the tenth division may retain concurrent jurisdiction over other types of cases. The determination whether the tenth division of the Shelby County general sessions court has exceeded its capacity to hear all domestic violence cases shall be made by the presiding judge of the tenth division in consultation with the chief judge of the Shelby County general sessions court.

(c) If it has been determined pursuant to subsection (b), that the caseload of such domestic violence court exceeds the capacity of the tenth division of the Shelby County general sessions court to hear all such cases, then such excess cases shall be distributed among the remaining divisions of the Shelby County general sessions court to be heard.

(d) Such general sessions court shall commence as the domestic violence court for Shelby County no later than September 1, 2009.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: June 3, 2009



KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 9th day of June 2009



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR