

**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 894**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1130**

**By Representatives Hardaway, Campfield**

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1264

By Senator Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 19; Title 20; Title 21 and Title 36, relative to false allegations of sexual abuse in furtherance of litigation.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

§ 36-4-134. Whenever a trial court finds that any person knowingly made a false allegation of sexual abuse in furtherance of litigation, in addition to any other penalties provided for by law or rule, the court may hold the accuser in contempt of court and may order the accuser to pay all litigation expenses, including, but not limited to, the reasonable attorney's fees, discretionary costs and other costs incurred by the wrongly accused party in defending against the false allegation.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

§ 36-5-122. Whenever a trial court finds that any person knowingly made a false allegation of sexual abuse in furtherance of litigation, in addition to any other penalties provided for by law or rule, the court may hold the accuser in contempt of court and may order the accuser to pay all litigation expenses, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees, discretionary costs and other costs incurred by the wrongly accused party in defending against the false allegation.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

§ 36-6-114. Whenever a trial court finds that any person knowingly made a false allegation of sexual abuse in furtherance of litigation, in addition to any other penalties provided for by law or rule, the court may hold the accuser in contempt of court and may order the accuser to pay all litigation expenses, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees, discretionary costs and other costs incurred by the wrongly accused party in defending against the false allegation.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: April 22, 2010**

  
KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 10th day of May 2010**

  
PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR