



State of Tennessee
PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 759

SENATE BILL NO. 2140

By Kelsey

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2809

By Dennis, Coley, Rich

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1, Chapter 3, Part 1, relative to the construction of certain statutes.

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

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

Section 1-3-119.

(a) In order for legislation enacted by the general assembly to create or confer a private right of action, the legislation must contain express language creating or conferring the right.

(b) In the absence of the express language required by subsection (a), no court of this state, licensing board or administrative agency shall construe or interpret a statute to impliedly create or confer a private right of action except as otherwise provided in this section.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed in any way to impair the ability of a court to:

(1) Recognize a private right of action that was recognized before the effective date of this section by the courts of this state as arising under a statute, unless the statute is amended after the effective date of this section to expressly bar the private right of action;

(2) Create or confer a private right of action in the absence of a controlling statute on each cause of action contained in the complaint if such action is based on the common law;

(3) Utilize the doctrine of negligence per se; or

(4) Recognize a private right of action commenced by a state or local governmental entity to collect any fees owed for a governmental service or to recover such fees from a party that is obligated to bill and collect fees owed others for a governmental service.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed in any way to impair the ability of a state or local regulatory or licensing agency to enforce rules pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, codified in Title 4, Chapter 5, if such rules were duly enacted through the rulemaking authority granted to any such agency by statute.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012, and shall apply to all actions which accrue on or after that date.

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PASSED: March 29, 2012



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 17th day of April 2012



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR