

HOUSE BILL 531

By Powers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 15, Part 1 and Title 71, Chapter 6, Part 1, relative to disabled adults.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-6-102(1), is amended by designating the current language as subdivision (A) and by adding the following as a new subdivision (B):

(B) "Abuse or neglect" includes a caretaker who knowingly abandons, leaves, or fails to pick up an adult if the caretaker knows or should know that the adult is unable to protect or care for him or herself without assistance or supervision and the caretaker's conduct causes any of the results listed in subdivision (A) or creates a substantial risk of such results.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-6-102(5)(A), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(A) "Caretaker" means an individual or institution who has a duty to provide for the care of the adult and includes a parent, spouse, adult child, or other relative, both biological or by marriage, who resides with or in the same building with or regularly visits the adult and who knows or reasonably should know of the adult's mental or physical dysfunctioning or advanced age and knows or reasonably should know that the adult is unable to adequately provide for the adult's own care. Caretaker shall also mean an individual or institution who has assumed the duty to provide for the care of the adult by contract or agreement.

SECTION 3. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Lynn's Law".

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.