HOUSE BILL 634

By Hakeem

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8 and Title 49, relative to employment policies of local governmental entities.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 51, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Each local governmental entity shall adopt a policy that requires the local governmental entity, when practicable, to notify any person about whom an employee of the local governmental entity communicates an image or statement and the local governmental entity perceives the communication to be a threat of harm to the person. Each local governmental entity shall post a copy of the policy on the local governmental entity's website and supply a copy of the policy to all employees of the local governmental entity.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Communicate" means contacting a person in writing or print or by telephone, wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, photooptical, or electronic means, and includes text messages, facsimile transmissions, electronic mail, instant messages, and messages, images, video, sound recordings, or intelligence of any nature sent through or posted on social networks, social media, or websites;

(2) "Image" includes, but is not limited to, a visual depiction, video clip, or photograph of another person;

(3) "Local governmental entity" means any city, town, municipality, county, including any county having a metropolitan form of government, local education agency, development district, utility district, human resource agency, or other political subdivision of this state; and

(4) "Social network" means any online community of people who share interests and activities, or who are interested in exploring the interests and activities of others, and which provides ways for users to interact.

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