

HOUSE BILL 893

By Yokley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
Chapter 19, Part 1, relative to false campaign
materials.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-19-142, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and by adding the following language as a new subsection (b):

(b) In addition to the above criminal penalty and any civil action the candidate may have under law, a candidate in any election who reasonably believes false campaign literature about such candidate has been published or distributed may bring an action to recover any damages the candidate incurred due to the publication or distribution of literature that contained statements, charges, allegations or other matter that is false against the person responsible for distributing or publishing the false campaign literature. Such damages shall include any costs the candidate incurred directly related to disputing the false statements, charges or allegations through such candidate's own campaign literature, advertising or other materials.

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