

HOUSE BILL 1658

By Lamberth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
relative to criminal offenses.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a) A person commits assault against a participant in judicial proceedings who, while on the premises of a building in which judicial proceedings occur:

(1) Knowingly causes bodily injury to a victim who the person knows or reasonably should know is present due to the victim's participation in judicial proceedings; or

(2) Knowingly causes physical contact with a victim who the person knows or reasonably should know is present due to the victim's participation in judicial proceedings and a reasonable person would regard the contact as extremely offensive or provocative, including, but not limited to, spitting, throwing, or otherwise transferring bodily fluids, bodily pathogens, or human waste onto the person of the victim.

(b) A violation of subsection (a) is a Class E felony.

(c) As used in this section, "victim's participation in judicial proceedings"

includes:

(1) A victim's employment as a judge, district attorney general, attorney for a party in a criminal or civil case, court employee, bailiff, courtroom security

personnel, and other person who works in the building in which judicial proceedings occur; and

(2) A victim's status as a juror, witness, or party to a criminal or civil case or a victim in a criminal case.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.