

HOUSE BILL 1704

By Jernigan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
Chapter 14, relative to hotel occupancy periods.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 14, is amended by adding the following new part:

68-14-___.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Commissioner" has the same meaning as defined in § 68-14-302;

and

(2) "Hotel" has the same meaning as defined in § 68-14-302.

(b) A hotel owner or employee shall not advertise for rent or rent a room for a period of less than seven (7) consecutive hours in a period of twenty-four (24) hours. If a person who rents a hotel room vacates the room less than seven (7) hours after checking in, a hotel owner or employee shall not re-rent the room until the expiration of the seven-hour period.

(c) For a violation of subsection (b), the commissioner shall:

(1) For the first offense, assess against the owner a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500);

(2) For the second offense, assess against the owner a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and

(3) For the third and any subsequent offense, assess against the owner a fine of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) and suspend the permit of the hotel one (1) day during each week for a period of six (6) months. The

suspension of a permit under this subdivision (c)(3) is deemed to be a Class 2 suspension for the purpose of the notice and hearing requirements prescribed by §§ 68-14-307, 68-14-309, and 68-14-310. The commissioner may lift the suspension before the end of the six-month period only upon a finding that the violation for which the suspension was issued did not occur.

(d) The commissioner shall provide written notice to the appropriate district attorney of any fine or suspension issued under this section.

(e) This section does not preempt any city or county ordinance or resolution prohibiting the same or similar conduct or imposing a more severe penalty for the same conduct prohibited under this section.

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

it.