

HOUSE BILL 2078

By Richey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 40, relative to transportation of illegal aliens.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-114, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

(a) It is an offense for a person to knowingly or recklessly transport or cause to be transported into this state an individual who has illegally entered or remained in the United States, as determined by the bureau of immigration and customs enforcement of the United States department of homeland security.

(b)

(1) This section does not apply to common carriers.

(2) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the individuals were being transported for religious purposes.

(c) A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor punishable only by a fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each person illegally transported.

(d) Any moneys received from a violation of this section must go to the arresting agency or agencies.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.