

HOUSE BILL 2086

By Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3,  
relative to the General Assembly Assistance  
Program.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new part:

**3-1-301.**

(a) There is established a program to be known as the General Assembly Assistance Program that shall provide referrals to assist members of the general assembly who suffer from physical or mental disabilities that result from disease, disorder, trauma, or age and that impair the member's ability to serve.

(b) The purposes of the program are:

(1) To protect the interests of the general public from harm caused by impaired members of the general assembly; and

(2) To assist impaired members of the general assembly to begin and continue recovery from their impairments.

(c)

(1) Only employees and members of the general assembly may call the program on behalf of a member for a referral.

(2) The program shall be administered by the director of the office of legislative administration, in consultation with the department of mental health and substance abuse services, as needed.

(3) A separate phone number shall be established for a member or staff of the general assembly to anonymously call the program. Upon receipt of the member or employee's call, the director must refer the member to one (1) or more relevant referral services. The department of mental health and substance abuse services shall create a directory of referral services for use by the director.

(d) All information, in any form, furnished to the program is confidential and not subject to the open records law, compiled in title 10, chapter 7.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-13-101(a), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

Administer the General Assembly assistance program.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect January 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.