

HOUSE BILL 7094

By Harris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39
and Title 40, relative to threats of mass violence.

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 an offense who knowingly threatens to commit an act of mass violence against another and frightens the other person.

(b)

(1) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(2), a violation of subsection (a) is a Class E felony.

(2) If the defendant threatened to commit an act of mass violence against the other person based on a bias motivation, then the violation of subsection (a) is a hate crime, and shall be punished one (1) classification higher than otherwise provided.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Bias motivation" means a person intentionally selected a victim against whom a crime was committed or selected the property that was damaged or otherwise affected by a crime, in whole or in part, because of the person's belief or perception regarding the race, religion, color, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, or gender of the victim or the owner or occupant of that property; and

(2) "Mass violence" means the same as provided in § 39-16-517.

(d) The sentence of a person that is enhanced under subdivision (b)(2) is not subject to enhancement under § 40-35-114(17).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect October 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.