

SENATE BILL 221

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 68, relative to quarantine procedures.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a)

(1) Within twenty-four (24) hours after a state of emergency is declared under § 58-2-107 due to a disease outbreak, epidemic, or pandemic, the department of health shall form a committee to advise the department on how and when to implement quarantine and disease communication tracking procedures.

(2) The committee shall be administratively attached to the department of health.

(3) The committee shall be composed of the following members:

(A) The governor, or the governor's designee;

(B) The speaker of the senate, or the speaker's designee;

(C) The speaker of the house of representatives, or the speaker's designee;

(D) Each constitutional officer, or each officer's designee; and

(E) The commissioner of health, or the commissioner's designee,

who shall serve as chair.

(4) Members of the committee serve without compensation.

(5) During a state of emergency as described in subdivision (a)(1), following the initial meeting, the committee shall meet weekly or more frequently if the chair chooses. The committee members may participate by electronic or other means of communication for the benefit of the public.

(6) On the last day of each month during which a state of emergency is effective, the committee shall report to the chair of the health and welfare committee of the senate and the chair of the health committee of the house of representatives the current quarantine and disease communication tracking procedures in use by the department. Otherwise, the committee shall report on the department's quarantine and disease communication tracking preparedness no later than January 31 of each year in which the state of emergency is effective.

(7) The committee ceases to exist when the state of emergency for which it was formed ends.

(b) Within five (5) business days of quarantine and disease communication tracking procedures being implemented in response to a state of emergency declared under § 58-2-107 due to a disease outbreak, epidemic, or pandemic, and weekly thereafter until the state of emergency is no longer effective, each county health department shall publish on the department of health website the following information:

(1) Total tests administered for the disease outbreak, epidemic, or pandemic;

(2) Total positive tests;

(3) Type of test used;

(4) Number of cases of the disease outbreak, epidemic, or pandemic detected with each type of test;

(5) Number of asymptomatic cases; and

(6) Number of symptomatic cases.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-1-201, is amended by deleting subsection (a).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-2-609, is amended by deleting subdivision (1).

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to a state of emergency declared or extended on or after that date.