

SENATE BILL 633

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38  
and Title 39, relative to medical emergencies.

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

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "Deputy Jason Scott Public Safety Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A person who has witnessed another person suffer a medical emergency shall, to the extent that the person can do so without danger or peril to self or others, immediately notify emergency services and then remain at the scene until emergency services personnel arrive. This duty does not apply if the person knows that emergency services have already been notified.

(b) A violation of subsection (a) is a Class A misdemeanor, unless:

(1) The medical emergency results in serious bodily injury, in which event it is a Class E felony; or

(2) The medical emergency results in death, in which event it is a Class C felony.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Emergency services" means the services utilized in responding to the perceived need for immediate medical care in order to prevent loss of life or aggravation of injury;

(2) "Emergency services personnel" means first responders or other persons who respond to calls for emergency medical assistance from a 911 call and includes law enforcement officers and firefighters; and

(3) "Medical emergency" means a medical condition or symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of medical attention to potentially result in:

(A) Placing the person's health in serious jeopardy;

(B) Serious impairment to bodily functions; or

(C) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

(d) Nothing in this section prohibits more than one (1) person from notifying emergency medical services.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.