

SENATE BILL 1138

By White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 38 and Title 39, relative to first responders.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-308(c), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(c)

(1) Except as provided in subsection (d), a violation of subsection (a) is a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) A violation of subsection (b) is a Class E felony.

(3) Notwithstanding this subsection (c), a person convicted of a violation of subsection (a) or (b) shall be punished one (1) classification higher than is otherwise provided if the person committed the offense on the basis of the victim's actual or perceived employment as a first responder.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-308(e), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() "First responder" includes, but is not limited to:

(A) A correctional officer employed by the department of corrections;

(B) An emergency medical technician, as defined in § 7-51-210;

(C) A firefighter, as defined in § 4-21-407;

(D) A law enforcement officer; or

(E) Any other person who responds to calls for emergency assistance;

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to offenses occurring on or after that date.