

SENATE BILL 1859

By Niceley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,  
Chapter 17, Part 3 and Title 40, Chapter 39, Part  
2, relative to abuse of a corpse.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as new sections:

**39-17-319.**

(a) A person commits sexual abuse of a corpse who intentionally engages in sexual contact, as defined in § 39-13-501, with an individual the person knows or should know is a corpse.

(b) Sexual abuse of a corpse is a Class D felony.

**39-17-320.**

(a) A person commits aggravated sexual abuse of a corpse who intentionally engages in unlawful sexual penetration, as defined in § 39-13-501, with an individual the person knows or should know is a corpse.

(b) Aggravated sexual abuse of a corpse is a Class C felony.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-39-202(20)(A), is amended by adding the following new subdivisions:

( ) Sexual abuse of a corpse, under § 39-17-319;

( ) Aggravated sexual abuse of a corpse, under § 39-17-320;

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to acts committed on or after that date.