

SENATE BILL 2285

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and
Title 20, relative to state agencies.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 3, is amended by
adding the following new section:

(a) In interpreting a state statute or rule, a court, administrative judge, or hearing officer presiding over a contested case hearing or appeal shall not defer to the agency's interpretation of the statute or rule. The court, administrative judge, or hearing officer shall interpret the meaning of the statute or rule de novo.

(b) In an action brought by or against a state agency, after applying all customary tools of interpretation, the court, administrative judge, or hearing officer shall exercise any remaining doubt in favor of a reasonable interpretation that limits agency power and maximizes individual liberty.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.