

HOUSE BILL 59

By Rogers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
Chapter 17, Part 3, relative to civil rights
intimidation.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-309, is amended by adding the following new subdivision (b)(5):

(5)

(A) Injures or threatens to injure another person or damages, destroys, or defaces any real or personal property of another person with the intent to unlawfully intimidate another from the free exercise of the person's political beliefs, political party affiliation, or choice of candidates for public office; or

(B) Injures or threatens to injure another person or damages, destroys, or defaces any real or personal property of another person with the intent to unlawfully intimidate the person because of the manner in which the person's political beliefs, political party affiliation, or choice of candidates for public office were exercised.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-309, is amended by deleting subsection (d) and substituting instead the following:

(d)

(1) A violation of subdivision (b)(1)-(b)(4) is a Class D felony.

(2) A violation of subdivision (b)(5) is a Class E felony.

(3) A violation of subsection (c) is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.