

HOUSE BILL 599

By Powell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 5; Title 58; Title 64, Chapter 3; Title 68 and Title 69, relative to weather-related information.

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

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

The department of environment and conservation shall compile and publish on the department's website data relevant to the occurrence of floods and landslides that occur in this state. The department shall utilize its existing resources to obtain the data from other government agencies, media, and citizen scientists. The data must include the geographic location, duration, and severity of floods and landslides that occur in this state. The department shall present the geographic location of floods and landslides that occur in this state in a map format.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, Chapter 2, Part 5, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Department" means the department of environment and conservation; and

(2) "Mesonet" means a network of weather monitoring stations.

(b) The department shall establish a mesonet consisting of at least one (1) weather monitoring station in each county. The department may enter into agreements with public and private institutions for the location, installation, operation, and maintenance of the weather stations that comprise the mesonet. The department shall

establish a central hub to receive and process data from the mesonet. The department shall collaborate with the Tennessee emergency management agency for the purpose of conveying severe weather warnings to emergency service agencies, media, and the public.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.