

HOUSE BILL 1585

By Pearson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33  
and Title 68, relative to mental health.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 1, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department of mental health and substance abuse services, in consultation with the department of health, shall develop and implement a public awareness campaign focused on mental health and gun safety. The purpose of the campaign is to promote gun safety by increasing awareness of mental health conditions and treatment needs, and the availability of mental health resources to residents of this state.

(b) The department shall develop and publish campaign materials and make such materials available to the public for free on its publicly accessible website beginning no later than January 1, 2024, and shall continue to make the materials available through December 31, 2025. The department shall ensure that the public awareness campaign materials are periodically updated.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 2, Part 6, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A county health department may develop and implement a public awareness campaign focused on mental health and gun safety. The purpose of the campaign is to promote gun safety by increasing awareness of mental health conditions and treatment needs, and the availability of mental health resources for county residents.

(b) When developing materials for a public awareness campaign pursuant to subsection (a), a county health department may utilize the public awareness campaign materials developed by the department of mental health and substance abuse pursuant to SECTION 1. This subsection (b) does not prohibit a county health department from developing its own public awareness campaign materials or from using other materials the county health department deems appropriate.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.