

HOUSE BILL 1773

By Gravitt

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
Chapter 13, Part 1 and Title 65, Chapter 35,
relative to employees of a utility.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-13-102, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(f) A person commits aggravated assault who, knowingly causes physical injury to a person who is employed by or on behalf of any utility as defined in § 65-35-101(4), while the utility employee is performing a duty within the scope of the utility employee's employment and has provided identification when asked by stating the employee's name, employer's name, and the purpose of the work.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-13-102(e)(1)(A), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(vii) Subsection (f) is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-13-102(e)(1)(B), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(B) However, the maximum fine shall be fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for an offense under subdivision (a)(1)(A), subdivision (a)(1)(B), subsection (c), subsection (d), or subsection (f) committed against any of the following persons who are discharging or attempting to discharge their official duties:

- (i) Law enforcement officer;
- (ii) Firefighter;
- (iii) Medical fire responder;

- (iv) Paramedic;
- (v) Emergency medical technician;
- (vi) Healthcare provider;
- (vii) Employee of a utility; or
- (viii) Any other first responder.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.