

HOUSE BILL 1779

By Coley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 20,  
Chapter 14; Title 36, Chapter 3, Part 6 and Title  
39, relative to stalking.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-315(a)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(1) "Course of conduct" means a pattern of direct or indirect conduct composed of a series of two (2) or more separate noncontinuous acts evidencing a continuity of purpose;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-315(a)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(2) "Emotional distress" means significant mental suffering or distress that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling and includes fear for the safety of a third party;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-315(a)(5), is amended by adding the following new subdivision:

(H) Enlisting a third party to contact or surveil that person;

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-315, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

(I) Pursuant to § 39-11-103(d), stalking may be prosecuted in any county where one (1) or more elements of the offense occur, including any county where the victim felt terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested, regardless of whether the defendant was ever actually in that county.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.