

HOUSE BILL 1961

By Hall

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33;  
Title 40 and Title 41, relative to prisoners.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) A person committed to jail must not be kept in the same cell or room in the jail as a person convicted of or charged with a sexual offense, a violent sexual offense, or a violent crime if the person:

(1) Has an intellectual or developmental disability documented by a licensed medical professional; or

(2) Demonstrates intellectual or developmental limitations that would lead a reasonable person to believe the person committed to jail has an intellectual or developmental disability.

(b) The sheriff of each county charged with the care and custody of prisoners must provide training to each person employed as a jail administrator, jailer, corrections officer, or guard in a county jail on recognizing intellectual and developmental disabilities and the proper procedures for dealing with persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Developmental disability" and "intellectual disability" have the same meaning as defined in § 33-1-101;

(2) "Sexual offense" and "violent sexual offense" have the same meaning as defined in § 40-39-202; and

(3) "Violent crime" means a felony enumerated as a violent crime under § 40-38-111, or a felony involving a weapon or firearm.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.