

HOUSE BILL 1966

By Daniel

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,  
Chapter 29, Part 1, relative to the impairment of  
first amendment rights.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 29, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) No board, commission, council, committee, authority, task force, or other similar multi-member governmental entity created by statute and subject to review under this part shall promulgate rules, issue statements concerning only the internal management of state government, or issue intra-agency memoranda as described in § 4-5-102(12), that infringe on an entity member's freedom of speech in violation of the Constitution of Tennessee, Article 1, §19 or the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. As used in this subsection, "freedom of speech" includes, but is not limited to, a governmental entity member's freedom to express an opinion concerning any matter relating to that governmental entity.

(b) Upon a determination by a joint evaluation committee created under § 4-29-103 that reasonable cause exists to believe a governmental entity has infringed on a member's freedom of speech, that entity shall be reviewed by that evaluation committee during the next legislative session following the determination. The evaluation committee may make recommendations for legislation to the general assembly concerning the entity's sunset status and rulemaking authority, and the termination of state funding to the entity.

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