

HOUSE BILL 2289

By Howell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16,
Chapter 15, relative to courts of general sessions.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-15-5006, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

(c) Any county that creates a new division of general sessions court position is authorized to impose a local litigation tax on each civil case filed in general sessions court, or in a court where the general sessions judge serves as judge, except juvenile court, and is authorized to impose a local litigation tax on each criminal conviction in general sessions court. If the judge of the new division of court hears environmental issues, the county may also use any revenue generated from enforcement of title 39, chapter 14, part 5, relative to litter. In order for the tax to be effective, it must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the county legislative body of any county wishing to impose it. The approval by the county legislative body must be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the body and certified by the presiding officer to the secretary of state. The litigation tax authorized by this section may be effective on or after July 1, 2016, and may be in any amount up to nine dollars (\$9.00) per case. Proceeds of the litigation tax shall be paid to the county general fund. It is the intent of the general assembly that the proceeds of this local tax aid in defraying the cost to counties of paying the general sessions court judges.

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