

HOUSE BILL 2503

By Harris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8,
Chapter 8 and Title 36, relative to child custody.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-404(a), is amended by adding the following new subdivision:

(10) In cases in which custody of a child is shared, establish at least one (1) designated location for the exchange of the child. Unless otherwise agreed by both parents in writing, the court may require the parents to exchange the child at a neutral safe exchange location as provided in § 36-6-117.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a) Each sheriff must designate at least one (1) parking lot at the sheriff's office as a neutral safe exchange location at which parents with shared custody of a child may meet to exchange the child.

(b) A sheriff must ensure that a parking lot designated as a neutral safe exchange location has a purple light or a sign on the parking lot premises to clearly identify the designated area as a neutral safe exchange location. The parking lot must:

(1) Be accessible twenty-four (24) hours a day and seven (7) days a week;

(2) Have adequate lighting and an external video surveillance system that records continuously, twenty-four (24) hours a day and seven (7) days a week; and

(3) Have at least one (1) camera that is fixed on the parking lot, is able to record the area in the vicinity of the purple light or sign, records images that clearly and accurately display the time and date, and retains video surveillance recordings or images for at least forty-five (45) days.

(c) A sheriff, sheriff's deputy, or employee of the sheriff's department is not liable for civil damages for any act or omission made in response to an incident arising out of a meeting to exchange a child at a neutral safe exchange location pursuant to this section, except due to the person's gross negligence, willful misconduct, or bad faith.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.