

CHAPTER NO. 939

HOUSE BILL NO. 2798

By Representatives Russell Johnson, Hood

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 3219

By Senators McNally, Kilby, Person, Finney

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 15, Part 4, relative to the offense of child abuse and child neglect or endangerment.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-15-401, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting instead the following:

(b) Any person who knowingly abuses or neglects a child under eighteen (18) years of age, so as to adversely affect the child's health and welfare, commits a Class A misdemeanor; provided, that, if the abused or neglected child is six (6) years of age or less, the penalty is a Class E felony.

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

**PASSED: May 25, 2006**

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 2006

  
PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR