

HOUSE BILL 1212

By Coley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16,  
Chapter 15, Part 50, relative to domestic violence.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 15, Part 50, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 16-15-5014.

(a) In order to maximize and concentrate limited prosecutorial, counseling and other social resources to victims of domestic violence, the county legislative body of each county with more than one (1) division of general sessions court shall designate one (1) such division to serve as the domestic violence division of the general sessions court of that county.

(b) The domestic violence division may retain concurrent jurisdiction over other types of cases but it shall have exclusive jurisdiction over matters involving domestic violence, orders of protection, domestic assault and all other cases incident to domestic abuse as defined in § 36-3-601.

(c) The domestic violence division shall be staffed by the same personnel, including the general sessions court clerk, as is currently staffing the various divisions of the general sessions court of that county.

(d) The county legislative body of each applicable county shall designate a domestic violence division of general sessions court as required by this section by September 1, 2009. Once designated, the domestic violence division shall commence hearing all domestic violence cases no later than thirty (30) days following the designation.

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