

HOUSE BILL 2562

By Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36,
Chapter 3, Part 6, relative to orders of protection.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 3, Part 6, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

36-3-626. If two (2) persons seek orders of protection against the other, for good cause shown, a judge may order the parties to mediation of the issues raised in the sworn petitions. The mediator shall be designated by mutual agreement of the parties. The parties may designate a mediator who is not listed as a qualified Supreme Court Rule 31 mediator, but such mediator shall observe the standards of professional conduct set forth in Appendix A to Supreme Court Rule 31, to the extent applicable. The mediator's fee shall be shared equally among the parties. If mediation results in agreement of the parties, such agreement shall be memorialized in the order dissolving the petitions for orders of protection. If mediation does not result in agreement of the parties, a hearing by the court on the petitions for orders of protection shall be held.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.