

SENATE BILL 2988

By Burks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39
and Title 40, relative to domestic violence
sentencing.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-13-111, is amended by deleting subsection (d) and by substituting instead the following:

(d)

(1) As a condition of any sentence imposed upon a defendant convicted of domestic assault under this section, if the defendant does not have any prior convictions in this state or any other state for domestic or sexual offenses, the sentencing judge may direct the defendant to complete a batterer's intervention program that is specifically designed for domestic violence perpetrators and that is certified by the domestic violence state coordinating council.

(2) To complete this alternative sentence, the defendant must attend a program for a minimum of twenty-four (24) weeks. The course shall not be deemed "complete" until all twenty-four (24) weeks are served.

(3) The defendant's knowing failure to complete such an intervention program shall be considered a violation of the defendant's alternative sentencing program and the sentencing judge may revoke the defendant's participation in such program and order execution of sentence.

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