

SENATE BILL 3661

By Kyle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5,
Chapter 1 and Title 7, Chapter 1, relative to
emergencies.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

5-1-311. Each county is authorized to develop a first responder team to respond to disasters, emergencies and other critical situations. The first responder team shall address the situation that is presented, using certified firefighters, medical personnel, law enforcement personnel, and other trained individuals such as electricians, plumbers, engineers and others to minimize injury and loss of life and to protect property. The first responder team shall have the authority to work with TEMA and other such agencies to provide emergency aid and assistance. The first responder team shall have such authority as needed to secure the area and minimize risk to persons and property, including the evacuation of persons, the curtailing or termination of electricity or gas to buildings, restriction of access to the area, as well as such other actions necessary to contain and manage the surrounding area. Members of such first responder teams shall be immune from any claim, complaint or suit of any nature which relates to or arises from the conduct of the affairs of the team except in cases of gross negligence by such members of a first responder team.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

7-1-113. Each county with a metropolitan form of government is authorized to develop a first responder team to respond to disasters, emergencies and other critical

situations. The first responder team shall address the situation that is presented, using certified firefighters, medical personnel, law enforcement personnel, and other trained individuals such as electricians, plumbers, engineers and others to minimize injury and loss of life and to protect property. The first responder team shall have the authority to work with TEAM and other such agencies to provide emergency aid and assistance. The first responder team shall have such authority as needed to secure the area and minimize risk to persons and property, including the evacuation of persons, the curtailing or termination of electricity or gas to buildings, restriction of access to the area, as well as such other actions necessary to contain and manage the surrounding area. Members of such first responder teams shall be immune from any claim, complaint or suit of any nature which relates to or arises from the conduct of the affairs of the team except in cases of gross negligence by such members of a first responder team.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.