

HOUSE BILL 672

By Rogers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37,
Chapter 1, Part 4 and Section 39-13-111, relative
to children with hearing impairment.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-406, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

()

(1) Any investigator or law enforcement officer who is investigating a possible domestic abuse or child abuse incident that may have involved or occurred in the presence of a hearing-impaired child shall not use the child's parent or family member as an interpreter. The investigator or officer shall instead communicate with the hearing-impaired child using an interpreter trained in American sign language.

(2) The interpreter may interpret from a remote location by communicating with the child using electronic means. The communication shall occur outside the presence of the child's parent or other family members.

(3) American sign language interpretation may be provided by volunteers, personnel employed by the department or law enforcement agencies, or any other appropriate person.

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