

HOUSE BILL 973

By Littleton

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 29;
Title 35; Title 36; Title 37; Title 38; Title 39 and
Title 40, relative to domestic abuse.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-16-507, is amended adding the following as a new subsection:

(c) In any case involving a domestic abuse victim, as defined by § 36-3-601, a person commits an offense who, by any means of persuasion or any other means that is not coercion, as defined by § 39-11-106, intentionally influences or attempts to influence a witness or prospective witness in an official proceeding to:

- (1) Testify falsely;
- (2) Withhold any truthful testimony, information, document, or thing; or
- (3) Elude legal process summoning the witness to testify or supply

evidence, or to be absent from an official proceeding to which the witness has been legally summoned.

(d) A violation of subsection (c) is a Class A misdemeanor and, upon conviction, the sentence shall run consecutively to the sentence for any other offense that is based in whole or in part on the factual allegations about which the person was seeking to influence a witness.

(e) It is not a defense to a violation of subsection (c) that an order of protection issued pursuant to title 36, chapter 3, part 6 has been served on a defendant.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.