

HOUSE BILL 2303

By Sherrell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
Chapter 14, Part 3, relative to arson.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-301(a), is amended by deleting the language "knowingly damages any structure by means of a fire or explosion" and substituting instead the following:

knowingly damages any structure or fire equipment by means of a fire or explosion

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-301(b)(2)(B), is amended by deleting the subdivision; redesignating subdivision (b)(2)(A) as subdivision (b)(2); and adding the following as a new subsection (c):

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Fire equipment" means vehicles, tools, or devices used by a fire department to extinguish fires; and

(2) "Place of worship" means any structure that is:

(A) Approved, or qualified to be approved, by the state board of equalization for property tax exemption pursuant to § 67-5-212, based on ownership and use of the structure by a religious institution; and

(B) Utilized on a regular basis by such religious institution as the site of congregational services, rites, or activities communally undertaken for the purpose of worship.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.