

SENATE BILL 2428
By Harper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 34, Chapter 7, Part 1, relative to public guardianship for the elderly.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 34, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) The commission on aging, the department of human services, and the department of health shall jointly develop and implement a statewide system to recruit, train, certify, supervise, coordinate and evaluate public guardianship program volunteers to assist the district public guardians in their efforts to maintain independence and dignity for their elderly wards. Volunteer services on behalf of such elderly persons shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, scheduling and facilitating medical appointments, providing needed transportation, assuring that prescribed medications are obtained and taken in the correct dosages, performing light housekeeping chores, running errands, and shopping for essential items. In developing and implementing such statewide system, input and resources shall be solicited from interested organizations, including but not necessarily limited to community senior citizen centers, churches and synagogues having senior projects and programs under the auspices of the American Association of Retired Persons,

(b) Each such volunteer shall possess demonstrated abilities of compassion and caring for the elderly. The background of each volunteer shall be subject to appropriate inquiry and investigation. Such volunteers shall receive no salary but may be paid a

modest allowance to provide reimbursement for expenses actually incurred while performing such services.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1996, the public welfare requiring it.

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