



Bill Summaries

SB 1684 Ketron / HB 1430 Sontany – Creates the TN Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System. The purpose of the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification program is to increase the safety of victims of crime by providing access to timely and reliable information about the custody status of offenders in **county** jails twenty-four hours a day over the telephone, through the internet, or by e-mail. Victims of crime and other concerned citizens can register to be notified immediately in the event of an offender's release, transfer, or escape.

Currently, 56 Tennessee counties participate in the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System also known as VINE. Another 19 counties will come on line by the end of the year bringing the total number of counties on the statewide system to 75.

Implementation of this project was made possible by federal grants administered by the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Now, the state must pick up the cost to continuing operating the system when the grant funds end. The bill imposes a privilege tax on litigation of \$1 on all criminal cases to support this on-going expense. The bill also authorizes the Department of Finance and Administration to make an annual grant to the **Tennessee Sheriff's Association** for the purpose of supporting the implementation and management of the victim notification system.

To learn more about the TN Statewide Victim Information and Notification system visit www.appriss.com/tnvine/. This site includes a map where you can see which counties are currently on-line and those that are scheduled to come on to the system.

Bill Status: Scheduled to be heard in Senate Finance Ways and Means Committee and House Judiciary Committee on May 6.

SB 314 Black / HB 1225 Harwell – Under federal law, 18 U.S.C. § 921 and 18 U.S.C. § 922, a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence or who is subject to an order of protection is prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm. Tennessee currently has no laws or policies in place to facilitate the dispossession of weapons from such offenders. This bill creates a Class A misdemeanor for failure to dispossess all firearms the respondent possesses within 48 hours of issuance of an order of protection or upon convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

Bill Status: Amendment No. 1 makes the bill. Scheduled to be heard in Senate Finance Committee on May 6 and House Finance Committee on May 5.

SB 902 Burks / HB 323 S. Jones - This bill allows a tenant who is the victim of domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking to terminate a lease agreement for the person's primary residence upon submitting the following evidence: an ex parte order or order of protection; a written report from a law enforcement agency; a written report from a domestic violence or child abuse agency; or a written medical report. The evidence must have been documented no more than 60 days prior to the tenant's notice to the landlord.

Bill Status: Taken off notice in the House. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.