



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 359

HOUSE BILL NO. 555

By Representatives Littleton, Hardaway, Russell, Moody, Helton-Haynes, Powers,
Alexander, Williams, Howell, Thompson, Haston

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1211

By Senators White, Akbari, Yarbrow

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9, Chapter 8 and Title 29, Chapter 13, relative to victims of human trafficking.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 29-13-103, is amended by deleting subdivision (a)(4) and substituting:

(4) The claimant has fully cooperated with the police and the district attorney general in the investigation and prosecution of the offender, except in cases involving a victim of human trafficking where it is determined that the victim's cooperation may be impacted due to the victim's age, physical condition, psychological state, cultural or linguistic barriers, or any other health or safety concern that jeopardizes the victim's well-being;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 29-13-106, is amended by deleting subsection (c) and substituting:

(c) Compensation must not be awarded for any personal injury or loss alleged to have been incurred as a result of pain and suffering, except for victims of the crime of rape, victims of a human trafficking offense, and victims of a crime involving sexual deviancy, including minors who are victims of the crimes contained in § 39-13-314, § 39-13-316, §§ 39-13-502 – 39-13-505, § 39-13-522, § 39-15-302, § 39-17-902, and §§ 39-17-1003 – 39-17-1005, or any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit such offenses.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 29-13-108, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting:

(a) A claim for compensation must be filed not later than two (2) years after the occurrence of the crime upon which the claim is based, two (2) years after the death of the victim, or two (2) years after any mental or physical manifestation or injury is diagnosed as a result of an act committed against a minor that would constitute a criminal offense under §§ 39-13-502 – 39-13-505, § 39-13-522, § 39-15-302, § 39-17-902, or §§ 39-17-1003 – 39-17-1005, or an attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit such offenses; provided, that upon good cause shown, the time period for filing such claim may be extended either before or after the expiration of the filing period. A claim cannot be filed until the crime upon which the claim is based has been reported by the victim, or a member of the victim's family, to the proper authorities, and in no case may an award be made where the law enforcement records show that such report was made more than forty-eight (48) hours after the occurrence of such crime unless, for good cause shown, it is found that the delay was justified. Good cause for the failure of a victim or a member of the victim's family to report a crime may be found if the victim is:

- (1) Physically unable;
- (2) A victim of sexual assault;
- (3) A victim of domestic abuse; or
- (4) A victim of human trafficking.

HB555

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 555

PASSED: April 17, 2023



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 5th day of May 2023



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR