



State of Tennessee
PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 352

HOUSE BILL NO. 1256

By Representative Doggett and Mr. Speaker Sexton

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1133

By Senators Gardenhire, Haile, Jackson, Mr. Speaker McNally, Rose

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8; Title 10; Title 33; Title 36; Title 37; Title 38; Title 39; Title 40; Title 41; Title 49; Title 50; Title 55 and Title 70, relative to criminal justice.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-11-139(d), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(d)

(1) If a court issues a bench warrant or a capias due to a defendant's failure to appear on a felony or on a Class A or Class B misdemeanor that is violent or sexual in nature as determined by the court, or if a defendant is charged with a failure to appear, then the defendant shall be placed on any available state or federal list or database as a fugitive from justice, including the National Crime Information Center.

(2) If necessary, the judicial official must sign the bench warrant or capias by the end of the next business day after the defendant's failure to appear. The clerk shall transmit the bench warrant or capias to the entering agency by the end of the next business day after issuance. The entering agency shall enter the bench warrant or capias into any available state or federal list or database, including the National Crime Information Center.

(3) A surety is not liable for any undertaking if the defendant has not been placed on the available state or federal list or database within three (3) business days of the entering agency's receipt of the bench warrant or capias.

(4) If the defendant is apprehended outside the state by a law enforcement agency in a jurisdiction that is outside the limitation entered into the state or federal list or database, then the district attorney general must determine, within one (1) business day of being notified of the apprehension, whether to initiate extradition proceedings for the defendant's return.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 15, 2025



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 2nd day of May 2025



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR