



# *State of Tennessee*

## **PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 803**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2734**

**By Bell, Gilmore, Akbari, Stevens, Yarbrow**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2517

By Curcio, Hulsey, Faison, Whitson, Cepicky, Dunn, Tillis, Farmer, Van Huss, Sherrell, Daniel, Eldridge, Hazlewood, Love, Carter, Dixie, Staples, Camper, Ramsey, White, Haston, Clemmons, Byrd, Parkinson, Beck, Freeman, Hardaway, Stewart, Powell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 2; Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 4 and Section 49-2-116, relative to the administration of justice.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-432(a), is amended by deleting the language "and mandatory minimum sentences required" and substituting instead "sentences authorized".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-432(b)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(1) A violation of § 39-17-417, or a conspiracy to violate the section, may be punished one (1) classification higher than is provided in § 39-17-417(b)-(i) if the violation or the conspiracy to violate the section occurs:

(A) On the grounds or facilities of any school; or

(B) Within five hundred feet (500') of or within the area bounded by a divided federal highway, whichever is less, the real property that comprises a public or private elementary school, middle school, secondary school, preschool, child care agency, public library, recreational center, or park.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-432(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "shall also be" and substituting instead "may also be".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-432(b)(3), is amended by deleting the language "but shall be subject to" and substituting instead "but may be subject to".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-432, is amended by deleting subsection (c) and substituting instead the following:

(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other law or the sentence imposed by the court to the contrary, a defendant sentenced for a violation of subsection (b) may be required to serve at least the minimum sentence for the defendant's appropriate range of sentence.

(2) There is a rebuttable presumption that a defendant is not required to serve at least the minimum sentence for the defendant's appropriate range of sentence. The rebuttable presumption is overcome if the court finds that the defendant's conduct exposed vulnerable persons to the distractions and dangers that are incident to the occurrence of illegal drug activity.

(3) If the defendant is required to serve at least the minimum sentence for the defendant's appropriate range of sentence, any sentence reduction credits the defendant may be eligible for or earn must not operate to permit or allow the release of the defendant prior to full service of the minimum sentence.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-432(d), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(d) Notwithstanding the sentence imposed by the court, title 40, chapter 35, part 5, relative to release eligibility status and parole does not apply to or authorize the release of a defendant sentenced for a violation of subsection (b), and required under subsection (c) to serve at least the minimum sentence for the defendant's appropriate range of sentence, prior to service of the entire minimum sentence for the defendant's appropriate range of sentence.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-432(e), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(e) Nothing in title 41, chapter 1, part 5, shall give either the governor or the board of parole the authority to release or cause the release of a defendant sentenced for a violation of subsection (b), and required under subsection (c) to serve at least the minimum sentence for the defendant's appropriate range of sentence, prior to service of the entire minimum sentence for the defendant's appropriate range of sentence.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-432(f), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(f) This section does not prohibit the judge from sentencing a defendant, who violated subsection (b) and is required under subsection (c) to serve at least the minimum sentence for the defendant's appropriate range of sentence, to any authorized term of incarceration in excess of the minimum sentence for the defendant's appropriate range of sentence.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-432(g), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(g) The sentence of a defendant who, as the result of a single act, violates both subsection (b) and § 39-14-417(k), may be enhanced under both subsection (b) and § 39-17-417(k) for each act. The state may seek enhancement of the defendant's sentence under subsection (b), § 39-17-417(k), or both, and shall provide notice of the election pursuant to § 40-35-202.

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-116(c), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(c) A school safety zone is the territory extending five hundred feet (500') from school property or within the area bounded by a divided federal highway, whichever is less.

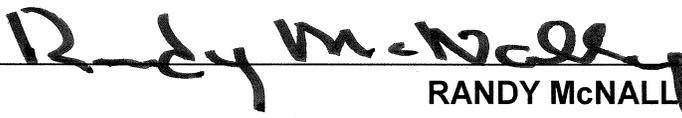
SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-116(d), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(d) The director of schools, with the approval of the board of education, may develop a method of marking school safety zones, including the use of signs. Signs or other markings shall be located in a visible manner on or near each school indicating that such area is a school safety zone, that such zone extends five hundred feet (500') from school property or within the area bounded by a divided federal highway, whichever is less, and that the delivery or sale of a controlled substance or controlled substance analogue to a minor in the school safety zone may subject the offender to an enhanced punishment. The state board of education shall assist the LEA in complying with the posting provisions of this subsection (d).

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect September 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

SENATE BILL NO. 2734

PASSED: June 17, 2020

  
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RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020

  
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BILL LEE, GOVERNOR