

CHAPTER NO. 821

HOUSE BILL NO. 131

**By Representatives Buck, McMillan, Hargrove, Head, McDonald, Cochran, Winningham, Yokley, Bunch, Matheny**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1352**

**By Senators Jackson, Burk, Bryson**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 14, Part 2, relative to public defenders.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 14, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 8-14-212.

(a) Effective July 1, 2004, there is created eighteen (18) additional assistant district public defender positions to be designated in judicial districts as provided in this section.

(b)

(1) The executive director of the district public defenders conference and the administrative director of the courts shall meet and prepare a report that contains the recommendations of such officials as to the specific judicial districts in which the additional assistant district public defender positions created pursuant to subsection (a) should be designated. Such report shall be prepared in consultation with the comptroller.

(2) By October 1, 2004, the executive director of the district public defenders conference shall file the report prepared pursuant to subsection (b)(1) with the speaker of the senate and house of representatives and chair of the judiciary committee of the senate and house of representatives. Upon the filing of such report, the district public defenders recommended by the report to receive additional assistant positions shall be authorized to interview and employ persons to fill such positions.

(c) As early as is practicable during the first session of the one hundred fourth general assembly, the general assembly shall consider and enact legislation that specifically designates the judicial district in which the person employed in the additional assistant district public defender positions created pursuant to subsection (a) will serve.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 20, 2004

  
JIMMY RAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June 2004

  
PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR