



# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 227

SENATE BILL NO. 542

By Bell, Ford

Substituted for: House Bill No. 218

By Forgety

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 15, Part 3; Title 40, Chapter 2 and Title 40, Chapter 35, relative to bigamy.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-15-301(a), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) A person commits bigamy who:

(1) Is married and purports to marry or be married to a person other than the person's spouse in this state under circumstances that would, but for the person's existing marriage, constitute a marriage; or

(2) Knows that a person other than the person's spouse is married and purports to marry or be married to the person in this state under circumstances that would, but for the person's existing marriage, constitute a marriage.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-15-301, is amended by adding a new subsection thereto, as follows:

(c) For purposes of determining when prosecution for this offense must begin under § 40-2-101:

(1) A violation of this section is a continuing offense; and

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the applicability of § 40-2-103.

(d) Bigamy is a Class A misdemeanor and, in addition to the authorized term of imprisonment, shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 1, 2013

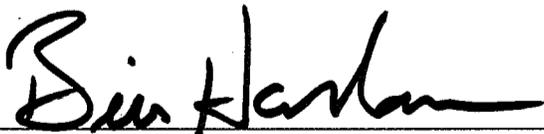


RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2013



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR