



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 694

SENATE BILL NO. 1796

By McNally, Campfield, Massey, Yager

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1526

By Haynes, Calfee, Matlock, Dunn, Kane, Hall, Farmer, Ragan, Harry Brooks, Swann, Eldridge, Sargent, Littleton, Butt, Marsh, Mark White, Powers, Armstrong, Ramsey, Faison, Towns, Halford, Dean, Roach, Lynn, Weaver, Mitchell, Rogers, Moody, McManus, Travis, Holt, Kevin Brooks, Gloria Johnson, Powell, McCormick, Ryan Williams, Coley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 18, Part 1, relative to verdicts in criminal trials and to enact the "Chris Newsom Act".

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Chris Newsom Act".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 18, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

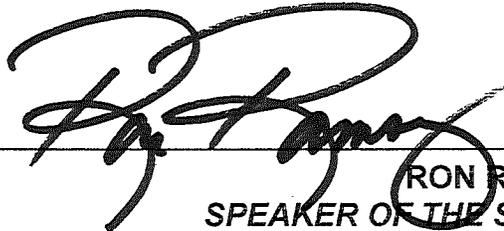
40-18-119.

When any successor judge to the original trial judge or any appellate court is determining if a new trial should be granted to a criminal defendant on the grounds that the verdict of guilty is against the weight of the evidence, immediately upon the original trial judge dismissing a jury following the return of a unanimous verdict, there is created a presumption that the original trial judge has served as the thirteenth juror and approved the jury's verdict with respect to each count on which a unanimous verdict was returned.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 1796

PASSED: March 27, 2014



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 15th day of April 2014



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR