



The Weekly Update

Tennessee General Assembly

House of Representatives

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This week the House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill that gives family members the ability to get a court order to intercede when an adult relative is subject to abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Under present law, if a person knowingly abuses, neglects or exploits any adult who is unable to take care of themselves on their own, that person can be charged with a Class E felony; but The Department of Human Services must take the action against the perpetrator. This bill authorizes any relative having personal knowledge that an adult has been subject to these types of offenses to seek relief for the family member by filing a sworn petition to any court with jurisdiction without going through the Department of Human Services.

The bill now waits on passage in the Senate where it is expected to be taken up by the Senate Judiciary Committee. A description of the bill along with the calendar of its progress can be found online by going to www.capitol.tn.gov and typing in HB2778 in the FIND LEGISLATION search box at the bottom.

Next week the House Judiciary Committee will take up a bill regarding interlocking ignitions for DUI offenders. House Bill 2917 is supported by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and is one of the toughest interlock bills in the nation. Under this bill, any person in Tennessee convicted of a DUI would be required to have an interlock for at least one year on their car. The penalty would be extended longer for multiple offenders. If this bill should become law, it would apply only to those DUI offenses occurring on or after the effective date of the law.

Please feel free to call or set up an appointment to come see me any time I may assist you or if you just simply want to discuss the issues.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

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