



HOUSE BILL 1504

By Lamberth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 38; Title 39 and Title 40, relative to the capitol
hill protection zone.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 8, is amended by adding the following new part:

4-8-501.

There is established a capitol hill protection zone around the state capitol grounds that includes the state capitol, capitol annexes, War Memorial Building, Legislative Plaza, Cordell Hull Building, Supreme Court Building, State Library and Archives Building, John Sevier State Office Building, James K. Polk State Office Building, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, and the grounds and roads immediately surrounding such buildings.

4-8-502.

(a) The commissioner of safety shall ensure that the capitol hill protection zone is adequately staffed by law enforcement officers to ensure the safety of state government officials, state government employees, and members of the public. Law enforcement officers assigned by the commissioner of safety shall have concurrent law enforcement authority with local law enforcement agencies, including the power to arrest, carry a firearm, and investigate crime.

(b) The assigned law enforcement officers must be certified by the peace officers standards and training commission (POST) and may include members of the

Tennessee highway patrol, officers from the division of protective services, and state facility protection officers.

(c) Any officer assigned to the capitol hill protection zone must have completed, in addition to the training required for POST-certification, training specifically on the laws regulating protesting on state property and best practices for dealing with large public gatherings and the protection of government officials.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect January 1, 2027, the public welfare requiring it.

Amendment No. 1 to HB1504

Crawford
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1588

House Bill No. 1504*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 8, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

4-8-501.

There is designated a capitol hill protection zone around the state capitol grounds that includes the state capitol, capitol annexes, World War II Memorial Building that formerly housed the state library and archives, Supreme Court Building, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, War Memorial Building, Legislative Plaza, James K. Polk State Office Building, Rachel Jackson Building, Andrew Jackson Building, John Sevier State Office Building, Cordell Hull Building, and the grounds, roads, and sidewalks along either side of the roads immediately surrounding such buildings.

4-8-502.

(a) Law enforcement officers assigned to the capitol hill protection zone by the commissioner of safety have concurrent law enforcement authority with local law enforcement agencies, including the power to arrest, carry a firearm, and investigate crime.

(b) The assigned law enforcement officers must be certified by the peace officers standards and training commission (POST). Any law enforcement officer assigned to the capitol hill protection zone must have completed, in addition to the training required for POST-certification, training specifically on the laws regulating

protesting on state property and best practices for dealing with large public gatherings and the protection of government officials.

(c) The commissioner of safety may also assign state facility protection officers, as appointed and commissioned through § 4-3-2019, to the capitol hill protection zone. Any state facility protection officer assigned to the capitol hill protection zone must have completed, in addition to the training requirements in § 4-3-2019, training specifically on the laws regulating protesting on state property and best practices for dealing with large public gatherings and the protection of government officials.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect January 1, 2027, the public welfare requiring it.