

SENATE BILL 1952

By Kyle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
Chapter 17; Section 49-2-120 and Section 49-7-
123, relative to hazing.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 3, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) It is an offense to commit an act of hazing.

(b) As used in this section, "hazing" means the intentional or reckless act by a person acting alone or with others that is directed against an individual and that the person knew or should have known endangers the physical health or safety of the individual, and that is done for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, or maintaining membership in any organization or workplace. Hazing includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;

(2) Physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, or calisthenics, that subjects the other person to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the individual;

(3) Activity involving induced consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the individual to an

unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the physical or mental health or safety of the individual; and

(4) Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing.

(c) Hazing does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions.

(d) Hazing is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.