HOUSE BILL 1578

By Griffey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 5; Title 6 and Title 7, relative to refugee resettlement.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 38, is amended by adding the following new sections:

4-38-105.

Sections 4-38-101 – 4-38-104 only apply to refugees received before the effective date of this act or in accordance with § 4-38-107.

4-38-106.

Except as provided in § 4-38-107, this state and each local government within this state shall refuse to consent to receive any refugees for purposes of resettlement within this state in accordance with Executive Order 13888 of September 26, 2019.

4-38-107.

(a) A local government may propose to consent to receiving refugees for purposes of resettlement:

(1) By the adoption of a resolution or ordinance by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the local government; and

(2) If the resolution or ordinance specifies the number of refugees to be received and each location for resettlement.

(b) If a local government approves a resolution or ordinance under subsection (a):

(1) The local government shall provide notice of approval to each member of its legislative delegation; and

(2) A member of the general assembly may propose legislation authorizing the local government to consent to the resettlement of refugees within the boundaries of its jurisdiction in accordance with the adopted resolution or ordinance. Legislation proposed under this subdivision (b)(2) must authorize the local government to request a moratorium on refugee resettlement activities in accordance with § 4-38-104.

(c) For purposes of consenting to the resettlement of refugees under this section, a local government shall not consent unless legislation proposed under subdivision (b)(2) is approved in each house of the general assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) vote and signed into law by the governor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.