

# HB 849 • Tennessee

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1, relative to certain conditions of personhood.

Passed Both Chambers

Risk: Low

Amendment

Last Action (Apr 28, 2026): Comp. became Pub. Ch. 781

## Summary

This bill clarifies that 'person' does not include AI, algorithms, software, hardware, or machines in Tennessee law.

## Business Impact

If you develop or use AI in Tennessee, you must ensure compliance with personhood definitions to avoid legal ambiguities.

## Key Provisions

- Defines 'person' to exclude artificial intelligence and related technologies.
- Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1.
- Clarifies legal boundaries for AI and machine entities.

## Compliance Checklist

- Review and update legal definitions in company policies regarding AI. | Who: Legal and compliance teams. | Penalty: Potential legal ambiguities if not updated.

## Industries Affected

Artificial Intelligence

Technology

## Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Michele Reneau	R	Sponsor
Gino Bulso	R	Sponsor
Esther Helton-Haynes	R	Sponsor
Jay Reedy	R	Sponsor
Justin Pearson	D	Sponsor
Chris Todd	R	Sponsor
Dennis Powers	R	Sponsor

## Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2026-04-01	HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: Rec. for pass. if am.,	17	0	Passed
2026-03-18	HOUSE CIVIL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE: Rec for pass if	6	0	Passed

## Amendments

- SA0922 — 2026-03-30 (Not Adopted)
- HA0979 — 2026-04-01 (Not Adopted)

## Related Bills

- SB 837 (TN)

## Official Source

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/Billinfo/Default?BillNumber=HB0849&ga;=114>

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