

Bill to arm teachers fizzles after heated debates

NASHVILLE (AP)—A bill that would arm some school teachers in Tennessee failed Tuesday after heated debate from state lawmakers, including several Republican gun rights advocates.

The measure was voted down in the House Education Administration and Planning Committee. Legislators wondered whether it was the best way to protect students and whether governments could be held liable for any accident involving an armed teacher.

The bill was sponsored by Republican David Byrd, a former high school principal from Waynesboro who has spent the past sev-

eral years working on the legislation.

The measure would have allowed willing teachers and administrators to undergo training by certified private instructors to carry guns in schools where there are no school resource officers. Byrd's bill initially would have been limited to Pickett and Wayne counties but was amended to include the entire state.

The debate got testy during the committee hearing, with several fellow Republicans and gun rights advocates challenging the idea of arming teachers.

"To be honest with you, it feels like the bill's been put together on the

back of a napkin and it's held together with bubble gum and duct tape," said committee vice chairman Eddie Smith, a Republican from Knoxville. But Republican committee chairman Rep. Henry Brooks, also from Knoxville, cut him off.

Rep. Roger Kane, another Republican from Knoxville who is a former teacher and self-described advocate of the Second Amendment, said the bill also gave him pause.

Noting that teachers typically stay with students during a school lockdown prompted by a shooting, he wondered how even an

armed teacher would confront a shooter with a semi-automatic weapon.

"A teacher with a handgun taking on an intruder with an AR-15 is bringing a slingshot to a bazooka festival," Kane said. "You can't win that competition."

Republican Gov. Bill Haslam has objected to the bill that would arm teachers. The governor put together a 17-member school-safety task force after the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., that killed 17 people. He also proposed adding \$30 million to improve school safety across the state.

OBITUARIES

Billie Frances "Honey" Moore, 75

Mrs. Billie Frances "Honey" Moore, 75, of McMinnville died Saturday, March 31, at her residence.

She was born Feb. 16, 1943, in Marion County, was a former employee of Oster Corporation, cook, homemaker, a member of McMinnville Church of God at Locust Street, and a member of Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 349.

Mrs. Moore was preceded in death by parents Roy and Ruth Ann White Argo, granddaughter Katie Dishman, brothers Willis Argo and Kenneth Argo, sister Virginia Ruth (Joe Edd) Murray, and special daughter Karon Layne.

Survivors include her husband of 58 years Billy Edward Moore, daughters Lesia (Randy) Donalson, Jan (Dave) Phillips, and Kim (Duane) Dishman, grandchildren Josh (Maranda) Moore, Jessica Dishman, Jordan Donalson, Kyle (Makenzi) Phillips, and Paige Phillips, great-grandchildren Madison and Liam Moore, brother-in-law Tony Moore, sisters-in-law Reva Argo, Betty Moore, and Juanita Boren. Several nieces, nephews, family members, and friends also survive.

Funeral service was Tuesday, April 3, at McMinnville Funeral Home Chapel. Jeff Page and Steve Breedlove officiated. Interment followed at Mt. View Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com.

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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(McMinnville, Tenn.) April 4, 2018



Circuit Court Clerk

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"In the circuit court clerk's office, we need to get away from using so much paper and ink," said Sherrill. "We also need to make it to where we can have a website that way if you have court that morning, you can go online and see that. You can go online and see what happened that morning. This is a fast-moving world and people need information fast."

Milstead said the framework is already in place and it would take little effort to get the clerk's office into the digital world.

"There's actually already a website that is warrencountyttn.gov and that's where the Chancery Court has all of their documents and there's a spot there for Circuit Court Clerk and we just need to utilize it. It's there," said Milstead. "It's not going to cost a thing and we don't have to do a whole lot but put our court dates on it. There's also a spot where you can put documents on there."

Milstead got her start in the legal profession in 2002 at Farrar-Holliman and Medley. She left when she was offered a job at DA's office as court

assistant and says she goes to court two to three times a week. In that capacity, she has insight into how to upgrade the clerk's office.

"Emails are very, very important," said Milstead. "That would make it so much easier for attorneys to get copies of the dockets. The girls in the office have also mentioned IM's (instant messages) between each other so they don't have to scream out loud. We have it at work at the DA's office and it's great."

Sherrill said he would implement a robo-call system to make it easier for jurors to know when they need to be in court.

"When it snows, do you call the school to see if school is canceled? No you don't. I say we do the same thing with jurors because you're giving up your time for \$10 a day," said Sherrill. "We're going to start calling you when your case is canceled that day and more than 80 percent of cases set for trial do not go to trial on the day in which they are set."

Cantrell said she has drafted and filed pleadings in all different types of cases in our clerk's office, as well as clerk's offices throughout Tennessee. As office manager of Galligan and Newman, she is well versed on technology.

"I am directly involved in all the technology in the office," said Cantrell. "I have set up our computer systems, our telephone system. I deal with our credit card program. I know how it works. I would like to utilize that in my run for Circuit Court Clerk."

Roy A. Davis Jr., 84

Roy A. Davis Jr., 84, a McMinnville resident and Madison, Ind., native, was born Jan. 18, 1934 and died March 31 at NHC Healthcare of McMinnville following an extended illness.

He owned Roy Davis Pipe Organs, where he bought and sold pipe organs all over the United States. He was a professional organist and pianist, singer, photographer and printer. Mr. Davis was the retired founder and CEO of Cumberland Caverns, member of Sparta First Christian Church and son of the late Roy A. Davis Sr. and Margie Dismore Robertson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Jerry A. Davis and Harold L. Bridgewater and sister, Carolyn Davis.

Survivors include companion Mary Thrower of McMinnville; brothers Adam G. Davis of Madison, Ind., and John A. Davis of McMinnville; sister Judith Ann Thorpe of Parker, Ariz.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, at Sparta First Christian Church with DaWanna Lopez to officiate. Interment will follow at Faulkner Cemetery. Visitation will be 12 p.m. Wednesday until the time of service at the church. There will be no service or visitation at High's. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Christian Church Music Fund, 109 Gaines Street, Sparta, TN 38583. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Tom Verplank, 68

Tom Verplank, 68, a McMinnville resident and Merrillville, Ind., native was born Jan. 11, 1950 and died April 2 at Saint Thomas River Park Hospital following a sudden illness.

He was a retired employee of Carrier Corporation, member of the Baptist Church, and son of the late Grover Raymond and Margaret Dorothy Danyi Verplank.

Mr. Verplank was married April 12, 1980 to Peggy Talley Verplank, who survives. In addition to his wife, he is survived by four sons and spouses, Kel Verplank of Ft. Myers, Fla., Brian and Shawn Pecararo of Cape Coral, Fla., Chris and Karen Young, and Jason and Jennifer Pedigo, all of McMinnville; seven grandchildren, Jeremy Pecararo, Amanda Peckman, Kelsey Smith, Noah Pedigo, Collin Pedigo, Casen Pedigo and Collin Verplank; great-grandson, Soren Peckman; brothers and sister-in-law, David and Linda Verplank of Lebanon and Scott Verplank of Nashville; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Charles and Sepal Talley, Brenda and Hal Wanamaker and Shirley Ware, all of McMinnville.

Graveside service and interment will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 5, at Faulkner Cemetery at Pike Hill with Chris Young to officiate. A Masonic Service will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, by Warren Masonic Lodge No. 125 F&AM in High's Parlor. Visitation will be 4 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, and 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at High's. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Francis Robert Ward Jr., 70,

Mr. Francis Robert Ward Jr., 70, of McMinnville died Friday, March 30, at his residence.

He was born May 14, 1947, in Milford, Conn., was a former employee of the Warren County Highway Department, served his country with the U.S. Army, and was preceded in death by his parents Francis Robert Ward Sr. and Enid Mair Ward and sister Barbara Sperling.

Survivors include his wife and best friend of 48 years Mary Lou Greco Ward, daughters Francine (Tom) Mainolfi and Holly Deason, grandchildren Tommy Mainolfi Jr. and Sam Deason, brothers Charlie Ward and David (Mollie) Ward, brother-in-law Dominick (Kathy) Greco, special niece Mary Lou Hunter, and best companion Buddy. Several nieces, nephews, family members, and friends survive.

Per his request, Mr. Ward was cremated. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Online condolences may be made at www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com.

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SkillsUSA 2018 Spring Festival with Dinner & Live Auction
The SkillsUSA 2018 Spring Festival with Dinner and Live Auction will be Fri., April 6 @ The Tennessee College of Applied Technology McMinnville Campus. The BBQ Dinner and Open House will be from 4:30-6pm with the Live Auction starting at 6pm. The cost will be \$8 per ticket or 2 for \$15, purchase now at TCA or at the door. Join us for an evening of food and fun. For more info call 473-5587.

East End Church of Christ "Do Not Be Conformed" Seminar
East End Church of Christ will be having a gospel Seminar 13-15 April. The guest speaker will be Eric Lyons from Apologetics Press. Service times are Fri. @ 7 & 8pm, Sat. @ 10 & 11am with lunch provided, Sun. @ 9 & 10am. There will be a fellowship meal in the annex following Sunday morning worship. Visitors are our honored guests. You are cordially invited to attend each day.

Midway Community Center Relay for Life Breakfast
Midway Community Center will have a Relay for Life Breakfast on Apr. 7 from 7-10am at the Midway Community Center. All donations will go to Relay for Life. Come out and eat with us for a good cause.

Gospel Meeting at Berea Church of Christ
Berea Church of Christ will be hosting a Gospel Meeting Apr. 8-11 with services starting at 7pm each evening. Bro. Dan Guley will be speaking. Everyone is invited to come hear from God's word. Berea Church of Christ is located at 8143 Francis Ferry Rd. in the Midway Community.

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For More Information Call Our Community Greeting Service Representative Garry McBride 931-260-3328

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