

HOUSE BILL 1063
By Brown

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 1, relative to children in state custody.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, **IF** a juvenile court removes an unruly or delinquent child from the home of his or her parent, guardian or other legal custodian and commits the child to the custody of the department of children's services; **THEN**

The department shall place the child within an appropriate facility in a location conducive to family visitation.

(b) **IF** an appropriate facility in such a location is temporarily unavailable; **OR** **IF** the department pays reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses incurred for family visitation; **OR**

IF the court determines that family visitation is not in the child's best interest; **THEN**

The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply.

(c) As used in this section, the phrase "in a location conducive to family visitation" means within sixty-five (65) miles of the home from which the court removed the child.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2000.

