

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2820 - SB 2909

March 2, 2008

SUMMARY OF BILL: Grants court authority to make a default finding in accordance with the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure when a verified answer by all parties in a termination of parental rights case is not filed. Requires that a guardian ad litem be appointed for a child during all stages of a contested termination or adoption matter and requires all proceedings of such be confidential unless waived by all parties.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$172,000/Indigent Defense Fund

Assumptions:

- The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) estimates that the requirement for a guardian ad litem be appointed for all stages of a contested termination or adoption matter will result in additional 10 hours for each claim.
- In FY06-07, the AOC processed 430 claims in termination of parental rights cases.
- At a rate of \$40 per hour, it is estimated that there will be an increase in expenditures from the Indigent Defense Fund of \$172,000 (430 claims x 10 hours x \$40).
- The Indigent Defense Fund is 100 percent state funded through appropriations.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

/kml