

FISCAL NOTE

SB 1549 - HB 1570

April 1, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes individuals who have demonstrated the substantial limitations in functions outlined in TCA 33-1-101(17) as mentally retarded regardless of whether or not the person has received a formal diagnosis of mental retardation from a health care professional. Establishes an autistic individual as having a severe and chronic disability. Such individuals are entitled to services through the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (DMHDD) and the Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS).

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$1,000,000

Assumptions:

- DMHDD does not currently provide services or supports to individuals with autism or autism spectrum disorder. The estimated average direct treatment cost for autism, including direct medical costs, such as physician and outpatient services, prescription medication, and behavioral therapies, is \$29,000 per person per year.
- DMRS estimates that it costs approximately \$76,285 per person per year to provide mental retardation services. This bill will increase the number of individuals who will be entitled to services.
- Some of the services provided through DMHDD and DMRS receive federal financial participation funds. If any of the services provided to individuals as described in the bill, it could result in a decrease in state expenditures and an increase in federal expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J" and a distinct "W".

James W. White, Executive Director