

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**HB 332 – SB 856**

May 15, 2009

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (008571):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause and requires the Department of Children’s Services (DCS) to give investigations of reports of child abuse by a school teacher, school principal, school administrator, other school personnel, mental health professional, law enforcement official, or health provider the highest level of priority based on the expertise of the reporting individual. All such reports shall be investigated by the Department.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures - \$5,552,400

Increase Federal Expenditures - \$3,757,800

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$3,747,000**

**Increase Federal Expenditures – \$2,535,900**

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-5-604(b), DCS is required to investigate all reports of a child being actually harmed or sexually abused.
- Requiring the Department to give priority to investigations of reports of abuse by school personnel, mental health professionals, law enforcement officials, or health providers will not result in a significant increase in expenditures.
- The bill as amended requires that all of these reports be investigated by DCS.
- According to the Department, there were approximately 36,317 referrals screened out last year. Of those screened out, approximately 12,206

were made by an individual listed in the legislation and the Department would be required to investigate.

- DCS estimates 92 additional case managers resulting in an increase in expenditures of \$5,252,832 which includes salaries (\$3,164,800), benefits (\$1,076,032), and communications, networking, travel and supplies (\$1,012,000).
- DCS estimates 18 additional team leaders resulting in an increase in expenditures of \$1,030,140 which includes salaries (\$621,000), benefits (\$211,140), and communications, networking, travel and supplies (\$198,000).
- Of the total increase of \$6,282,972 (\$5,252,832 + \$1,030,140), seven percent (\$439,808) will be Title IV-E Federal funds; 45 percent (\$2,827,337) will be through TennCare; and \$3,015,827 in state funds.
- Of the \$2,827,337 in TennCare funds, \$731,206 is state funds at a 25.862 percent match rate and \$2,096,131 is federal funds at a 74.138 percent match rate.
- The total increase in expenditures for additional days of children in custody is estimated at \$3,747,033 in state funds and \$2,535,939 in federal funds.

**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