

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**CORRECTED
FISCAL NOTE**

SB 806 - HB 1871

May 12, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes that county health departments with dental staffs and clinical facilities are not relieved of the obligation to occasionally provide indigent adult patients with proper emergency services because the phrase, "to the extent possible within budget limitations," is included in Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-1-304(b). Authorizes the reduction of state funding or exclusion from participation in state administered programs if the metropolitan or county health departments or the Department of Health fail to comply with the provisions of the law.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

On April 1, 2009, we issued a fiscal note for this bill indicating a *not significant increase in state expenditures*. A more precise cost estimate was not possible because the Department of Health did not provide any information to assist in the preparation of the fiscal note. Based on information from the Department of Health, the fiscal impact for this bill is estimated as follows:

(CORRECTED)

Other Fiscal Impact - Currently, the Shelby County and Davidson County Health Departments are the only metropolitan health departments that provide dental services only to children. The counties will have to provide occasional emergency dental services to adults within their budgets. Any increase in costs to provide these services will result in a decrease in expenditures for other programs. Should the counties not be able to provide emergency dental services to adults within their current budgets, the counties could be prohibited from providing TennCare services through the Department of Health's School Based Dental Prevention Program resulting in an approximate decrease of \$2,400,000 in TennCare funding for the health departments.

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Assumptions:

- Davidson County and Shelby County are currently the only metropolitan health departments with dental facilities that are not providing emergency services to adults.
- These health departments would have to occasionally provide emergency dental services to adults within their budgets. Any increase in costs to provide these services will result in a decrease in expenditures for other programs.
- According to the Department of Health, TennCare has funded the School Based Dental Prevention Program since 2001.
- Currently, Davidson County is receiving \$696,000 and Shelby County is receiving \$1,677,100 for the operation of these school based programs from TennCare.

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, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "White" clearly legible.

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml