

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 2999 - HB 3425

February 16, 2010

SUMMARY OF BILL: Deletes the word “parent” from current law concerning adoption proceedings and termination of parental rights. This effectively abolishes the requirement that an advertisement be made to locate unknown fathers when there is no known legal father in order for that individual to be a party to adoption proceedings and the termination of parental rights. Only the legal parent (listed on the birth certificate) must be notified.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions:

- Currently, when there is a question as to who the biological father is during a termination of parental rights, the legal father and any other individual who may possibly be the father must be notified or an attempt at notification must be made. If the person’s location or name is unknown, the Department of Children’s Services and private adoption agencies try to advertise to publicly notify the biological father.
- According to DCS, this notification can cost from \$1,200 to \$5,000, especially when advertising for fathers who may be located out of state. DCS has stated that they will continue to advertise for any possible unknown fathers in some cases since judges will continue to ask that this be done and not publishing for a father may slow the case down in some courts. Any decrease in state expenditures is estimated to not significant.
- The putative father register will remain in place.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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