

HOUSE BILL 628

By Russell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16;
Title 36 and Title 37, relative to adoptions.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of children to have a permanent, stable home and a forever family; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of children in need of a forever home to encourage adoption; and

WHEREAS, parties are often discouraged from pursuing adoption due to the expense; now, therefore;

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

If a court appoints a guardian ad litem in a pending adoption proceeding, the guardian ad litem's fees shall be divided equally between the parties, excluding the person being adopted; provided, that if a party is found by the court to be indigent, the guardian ad litem shall charge that party's portion of the fees to the state through the administrative office of the courts claims and payment system, and bill the remaining parties at the same hourly rate as paid by the administrative office of the courts claims and payment system. If none of the parties are determined to be indigent, the hourly billing rate for the guardian ad litem shall be no more than two hundred dollars (\$200) per hour.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.