

SENATE BILL 12

By Briggs

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

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a) As used in this section, "relative caregiver" means a person within a first, second, or third degree of relationship to the parent or step-parent of a child who may be related through blood, marriage, or adoption.

(b) Any court that issues an order granting custody or guardianship of a child to a person who qualifies as a relative caregiver shall notify the relative caregiver that resources and funding for relative caregivers may be available through programs administered by the department.

(c) The administrative office of the courts and the department shall distribute information on available relative caregiver resources to each court within the state that issues orders regarding child custody or guardianship. For purposes of satisfying the requirements of this subsection (c), the distribution of resource information may be accomplished by electronic means.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.