

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 836 – SB 1304

March 8, 2019

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Prohibits, to the extent allowed by federal law, a private licensed child-placing agency from being required to perform, assist, consent to, refer, or participate in any child placement for foster care or adoption that would violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions. Establishes that the agency's objection to provide such services does not form the basis of a civil action for either damages or injunctive relief.

Prohibits adverse actions by the Department of Children's Services (DCS) or an agency of state or local government against a private child-placing agency for declining to provide services that violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (005494): Deletes and rewrites all language after the enacting clause without making any substantive changes to the legislation.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Prohibiting a privately licensed child-placing agency from being required to provide services that would violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions will have no significant impact on state or local government.
- Any change in caseloads of the courts is not anticipated to be significant.
- Passage of this legislation will have no effect on policies or procedures of the Department of Children's Services; therefore, any fiscal impact to DCS is not significant.

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CERTIFICATION:

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

Handwritten signature of Krista Lee Carsner in black ink.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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