

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**CORRECTED
FISCAL NOTE**

SB 616 – HB 921

March 2, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Children’s Service’s (DCS) to maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads to be at not more than 20 active cases relating to initial assessments or 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services. Requires DCS to maintain staffing levels of foster care case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads to be at not more than 10 active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect. Requires DCS to comply with the maximum caseload ratios.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

On March 1, 2019, a fiscal note was issued for this legislation estimating a fiscal impact as follows:

Increase State Expenditures – \$23,155,300

Increase Federal Expenditures – \$18,505,000

After further consideration, the fiscal impact was determined to be in error. The fiscal note has been corrected as follows:

(CORRECTED)

Increase State Expenditures – \$26,804,800

Increase Federal Expenditures – \$21,421,600

Corrected Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-5-132(a)(1)-(2), the DCS is required to maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads not to exceed an average of 20 active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect, or 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.
- The proposed legislation would require DCS to maintain staffing levels so that caseloads for foster care case managers do not exceed 10 active cases relating to initial

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assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect, and the caseload for other case managers not to exceed 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.

- Based on information provided by the DCS, one team leader is required for every five case managers. Additionally, one team coordinator is required for every four team leaders.
- There are currently 747 CPS case managers handling an estimated 13,048 active child protective services (CPS) cases. Each CPS case manager currently has an average caseload of 17 (13,048 / 747).
- In order for the caseload of a CPS case manager to not exceed 10 active cases, the DCS will require at least an additional 558 additional CPS case managers [(13,048 cases / 10 cases) – 747 current case managers]; 112 team leaders [(558 new case managers) / 5 case managers per team leader]; and 28 team coordinators [(112 new team leaders) / 4 team leaders per team coordinator].
- There are currently 699 regular case managers handling an estimated 13,988 ongoing cases. Each case manager currently has an average case load slightly above 20 (13,988 / 699).
- A case manager with a current caseload of less than 20 can take on additional cases to help even out the caseload ratios within their region. However, to the extent a case manager in a rural region has a caseload of more than 20 cases, it would not be feasible for a current case manager from a different region to take on those additional cases. To ensure the required coverage across all 12 regions, the DCS would require additional case manager positions.
- In order for the caseload of a regular case manager to not exceed 20 active ongoing cases, the DCS will require at least two additional case managers in each of the 12 regions, for 24 additional case managers.
- The total minimum additional positions DCS will require as a result of this legislation is 583 case managers (558 + 24), 117 team leaders [(583 new case managers) / 5 case managers per team leader]; and 29 team coordinators [(117 new team leaders) / 4 team leaders per team coordinator].
- The increase in expenditures associated with the additional positions is estimated to exceed \$48,226,400 (\$27,877,300 salaries + \$9,414,100 benefits + \$10,935,000 other costs).
- The increase in expenditures of \$48,226,400 for each year will consist of \$26,804,836 in state funding and \$21,421,564 in federal funding, as follows:
 - \$19,290,560 in DCS state funds (\$48,226,400 x 40.0%).
 - \$7,514,276 in TennCare state funds [(\$48,226,400 x 45.0%) x 34.625%].
 - \$14,187,604 in TennCare federal funds [(\$48,226,400 x 45.0%) x 65.375%].
 - \$7,233,960 in Title IV-E federal funds (\$48,226,400 x 15.0%).
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures to the General Fund is estimated to exceed \$26,804,836 (\$19,290,560 + \$7,514,276).
- The total recurring increase in federal expenditures is estimated to exceed \$21,421,564 (\$14,187,604 + \$7,233,960).

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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