



March 4, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (014986): Specifies that a child under eight years of age who tests positive on a drug screen when exposure to cannabinoids happens in utero does not constitute severe child abuse. Requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to create a record of information for all juvenile substance exposure investigations and report annually on it to the members of the Tennessee General Assembly (TGA).

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Adding these exclusions in the definition of severe child abuse will not result in a significant decrease in the number of cases of that are investigated.
- The proposed legislation will not result in any significant fiscal impact to the juvenile court system.
- The proposed legislation does not alter criminal offenses under Tenn. Code Ann. Title 39, Chapter 15, *Offenses Against the Family*; therefore, any impact on the criminal court system is estimated to be not significant.
- DCS will be able to record all juvenile substance exposure investigations and report to the TGA annually by utilizing existing resources and without any significant increase in state expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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