



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 492

SENATE BILL NO. 383

By Jackson, Yarbrow, Akbari, Campbell

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1126

By Russell, Farmer, Hardaway, Chism, Lamar, Thompson, Powell, Jernigan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, relative to children.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

37-5-214.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Seclusion" means the involuntary segregation of a child from the rest of the resident population regardless of the reason for the segregation, including confinement to a locked unit or ward where other children may be seen or heard but are separated from the child, but does not include:

(A) The segregation of a child for the purpose of managing biological contagion consistent with the centers for disease control and prevention guidelines;

(B) Voluntary time-out involving the voluntary separation of an individual child from others, and where the child is allowed to end the separation at will; or

(C) Temporarily securing children in their rooms during regularly scheduled times, such as periods set aside for sleep or regularly scheduled down time, that are universally applicable to the entire population or within the child's assigned living area; and

(2) "Temporary" means for no more than two (2) hours.

(b) This section applies to juvenile detention facilities approved, certified, or licensed by the department of children's services, including youth development centers.

(c) Seclusion shall not be used for discipline, punishment, administrative convenience, retaliation, staffing shortages, or any reason other than a temporary response to behavior that threatens immediate harm to a youth or others. Following a period of seclusion, the facility administrator may review the seclusion and authorize an additional two-hour period of seclusion if appropriate. The facility administrator shall not authorize more than two (2) subsequent, consecutive periods of seclusion or more than six (6) total hours of seclusion within a twenty-four-hour period. The department may, by rule or policy, provide alternative options for a child who cannot safely rejoin the rest of the resident population following the maximum period of seclusion authorized by this subsection (c).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-102, is amended by deleting subdivision (b)(26) and substituting instead the following:

(26) "Seclusion" means the involuntary segregation of a child from the rest of the resident population regardless of the reason for the segregation, including confinement to a

locked unit or ward where other children may be seen or heard but are separated from the child, but does not include:

(1) The segregation of a child for the purpose of managing biological contagion consistent with the centers for disease control and prevention guidelines;

(2) Voluntary time-out involving the voluntary separation of an individual child from others, and where the child is allowed to end the separation at will; or

(3) Temporarily securing children in their rooms during regularly scheduled times, such as periods set aside for sleep or regularly scheduled down time, that are universally applicable to the entire population or within the child's assigned living area;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-116(l), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:


(l) Seclusion must not be used for discipline, punishment, administrative convenience, retaliation, staffing shortages, or any reason other than a temporary response to behavior that threatens immediate harm to a youth or others. This subsection (l) applies to any child detained in any facility pursuant to § 37-1-114, either pre-adjudication or post-adjudication. Following a period of seclusion, the facility administrator may review the seclusion and authorize an additional two-hour period of seclusion if appropriate. The facility administrator shall not authorize more than two (2) subsequent, consecutive periods of seclusion or more than six (6) total hours of seclusion within a twenty-four-hour period. The department may, by rule or policy, provide alternative options for a child who cannot safely rejoin the rest of the resident population following the maximum period of seclusion authorized by this subsection (l).

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: May 3, 2021


RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 25th day of May 2021


BILL LEE, GOVERNOR