

HOUSE BILL 3850

By Richardson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37,
Chapter 5, relative to powers and duties of the
commissioner of children's services.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-105(12), is amended by deleting the language in subdivision (A) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(12)

(A) Establish a children's services advisory council having seventeen (17) members appointed by the commissioner to act in an advisory capacity on any matter within the jurisdiction of the department. Appointees to the council shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of local law enforcement, mental health professionals, local education agencies, juvenile court officials, social workers, health care providers, consumers of services such as parents, foster parents or family members of children who are or have been recipients of services from the department, child advocates, persons having specialized knowledge or experience and public and private agencies that provide services to children. The members of the council shall be appointed with a conscious intention of reflecting a diverse mixture with respect to race and gender. Each community services agency region shall be represented by at least one (1) individual on the council;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-105(12)(B), is amended by deleting the language "three (3)" and by substituting instead the language "four (4)" and is further amended by inserting a period "." in the first sentence following the word "years" and by

deleting the language “with the terms staggered so as to replace no more than one third (1/3) of the members each year.”

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-105(12), is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of subdivision (D):

Annually, the council shall publish no later than January 31, a report to be presented to the commissioner and to the governor, detailing the council’s work of the previous year.

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