

SENATE BILL 916

By Burks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 4; Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 6 and Title 37, Chapter 3, Part 1, relative to review of reported child abuse and child sexual abuse.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-3-103(a)(1), is amended by adding the following new subdivision (G):

(G)

(i) Review reports of child abuse and child sexual abuse that the department of children's services determines to be unfounded or unsubstantiated pursuant to §§ 37-1-406 and 37-1-607 to determine whether unfounded and unsubstantiated findings made by the department are accurate and consistent across the state; and

(ii) Provide an annual report to the select committee on children and youth concerning the commission's review and any recommendations for improvement on or before January 1 of each year.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-406(i), is amended by designating the current language as subdivision (1) and adding the following new subdivision (2):

(2) If the department determines that the report of abuse was unfounded, the department shall make available to the Tennessee commission on children and youth a copy of the written investigation report no later than ten (10) days after such determination is made.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-607, is amended by adding the following new subsection (d):

(d) In any case in which the team determines a report to be unsubstantiated, the department shall make available to the Tennessee commission on children and youth a copy of the written investigation report no later than ten (10) days after such determination is made.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.