

Amendment No. 1 to SB1048

Gardenhire
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1048

House Bill No. 1032*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-132, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) The department shall maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads not to exceed an average, to be calculated at least monthly, of:

(A) Twenty (20) active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect; or

(B) Twenty (20) children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.

(2) Beginning January 1, 2025, the commissioner shall ensure that no case manager is responsible for more than twenty-five (25) cases at any time, unless the commissioner determines that assignment of cases in excess of this limit is temporarily necessary to ensure the life and safety of any child under the care and supervision of the department.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2026:

(1) The department shall maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads not to exceed an average, to be calculated at least monthly, of:

(A) Eighteen (18) active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect; or

(B) Eighteen (18) children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services; and

(2) The commissioner shall ensure that no case manager is responsible for more than twenty-two (22) cases at any time, unless the commissioner determines that assignment of cases in excess of this limit is temporarily necessary to ensure the life and safety of any child under the care and supervision of the department.

(c) Beginning January 1, 2027:

(1) The department shall maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads not to exceed an average, to be calculated at least monthly, of:

(A) Fifteen (15) active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect; or

(B) Fifteen (15) children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services; and

(2) The commissioner shall ensure that no case manager is responsible for more than twenty (20) cases at any time, unless the commissioner determines that assignment of cases in excess of this limit is temporarily necessary to ensure the health and safety of any child under the care and supervision of the department.

(d) Beginning January 1, 2028:

(1) The department shall maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads not to exceed an average, to be calculated at least monthly, of:

(A) Twelve (12) active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect; or

(B) Twelve (12) children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services; and

(2) The commissioner shall ensure that no case manager is responsible for more than fifteen (15) cases at any time, unless the commissioner determines that assignment of cases in excess of this limit is temporarily necessary to ensure the life and safety of any child under the care and supervision of the department.

(d) Beginning January 1, 2025, the department shall publish on the department's website:

(1) The average weekly statewide caseload of case managers; and

(2) The number of case managers whose caseload is above the average or the limit set forth in this section.

(e) If the department is noncompliant with the standards in this section for three (3) consecutive months, the department shall provide written notice to the governor and speakers of the senate and the house of representatives of the noncompliance and a summary of efforts being made to rectify the noncompliance.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.