

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 616 – HB 921

March 1, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Children’s Service’s (DCS) to maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads to be at not more than 20 active cases relating to initial assessments or 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services. Requires DCS to maintain staffing levels of foster care case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads to be at not more than 10 active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect. Requires DCS to comply with the maximum caseload ratios.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$23,155,300

Increase Federal Expenditures – \$18,505,000

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-5-132(a)(1)-(2), the DCS is required to maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads not to exceed an average of 20 active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect, or 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.
- The proposed legislation would require DCS to maintain staffing levels so that caseloads for foster care case managers do not exceed 10 active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect, and the caseload for other case managers not to exceed 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.
- Based on information provided by the DCS, one team leader is required for every five case managers. Additionally, one team coordinator is required for every four team leaders.
- There are currently 747 CPS case managers handling an estimated 13,048 active child protective services (CPS) cases. Each CPS case manager currently has an average caseload of 17 (13,048 / 747).
- In order for the caseload of a CPS case manager to not exceed 10 active cases, the DCS will require at least an additional 558 additional CPS case managers [(13,048 cases / 10

cases) – 747 current case managers]; 112 team leaders [(558 new case managers) / 5 case managers per team leader]; and 28 team coordinators [(112 new team leaders) / 4 team leaders per team coordinator].

- There are currently 699 regular case managers handling an estimated 13,988 ongoing cases. Each case manager currently has an average case load slightly above 20 (13,988 / 699).
- In order for the caseload of a regular case manager to not exceed 20 active ongoing cases, the DCS will require at least one additional case manager [(13,988 cases / 20) – 699 total case managers].
- The total minimum additional positions DCS will require as a result of this legislation is 559 case managers (558 + 1), 112 team leaders, and 28 team coordinators.
- The increase in expenditures associated with the additional positions is estimated to exceed \$41,660,262 (\$26,731,300 salaries + \$4,443,962 benefits + \$10,485,000 other costs).
- The increase in expenditures of \$41,660,262 for each year will consist of \$23,155,295 in state funding and \$18,504,967 in federal funding, as follows:
 - \$16,664,105 in DCS state funds (\$41,660,262 x 40.0%).
 - \$6,491,190 in TennCare state funds [(\$41,660,262 x 45.0%) x 34.625%].
 - \$12,255,928 in TennCare federal funds [(\$41,660,262 x 45.0%) x 65.375%].
 - \$6,249,039 in Title IV-E federal funds (\$41,660,262 x 15.0%).
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures to the General Fund is estimated to exceed \$23,155,295 (\$16,664,105 + \$6,491,190).
- The total recurring increase in federal expenditures is estimated to exceed \$18,504,967 (\$12,255,928 + \$6,249,039).

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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