

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2598 - SB 2621

February 17, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to maintain staffing levels of case managers so that caseloads do not exceed 20 cases per case manager for the first six months following the effective date of this legislation, and staffing levels of case managers so that caseloads do not exceed 14 cases six months after the effective date of this legislation, for either active cases relating to initial assessments of allegations of child abuse or neglect, or for children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

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 do not exceed 20 and subsequently 14 active cases.
- As of February 2024, there were 22,467 active cases relating to initial assessments of allegations of child abuse or neglect, or for children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services, and 2,230 case managers. Therefore, DCS has a current rate of approximately 10 (22,467 / 2,230) cases per case manager.
- DCS is currently complying with the provisions of the proposed legislation, and will not require any additional resources or personnel.

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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