

HOUSE BILL 164

By Butler

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 1; Title 37, Chapter 5 and Title 68, Chapter 11, relative to children.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-142, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting:

(b) The facility, a facility employee, or a member of the professional medical community at the facility shall notify the department of children's services immediately after taking possession of an infant under this section. Upon notification, the department shall assume the physical care, custody, and control of the infant and shall petition the appropriate court for legal custody of the infant. As soon as practicable, the department shall transfer the physical care, custody, and control of the infant to a designated authorized nonprofit licensed child-placing agency.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-119(c), is amended by designating the current language as subdivision (c)(1) and adding the following subdivision (c)(2):

(2) If the child was voluntarily left at a facility or in a newborn safety device pursuant to § 68-11-255, has resided in the home of the petitioners for at least three (3) months, and the court has received the final court report concerning the circumstances of the child and the petitioners and is satisfied that the adoption will be in the best interest of the child, then the court may waive the six-month waiting period after the filing of the adoption petition and may enter an order of adoption.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.