

HOUSE BILL 2024

By Littleton

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37
and Title 39, relative to child protective
investigations.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-607(a)(1)(B), is amended by deleting the language "child sexual abuse plan and program" and substituting instead the language "child sexual abuse or severe child abuse plan and program".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-607, is amended by deleting subdivision (b)(1) and substituting:

(1) The department shall convene the appropriate child protective team when a report of child sexual abuse or severe child abuse has been received. Nothing in this section removes or reduces the duty and responsibility of any person to report all suspected or actual cases of child sexual abuse or severe child abuse. The role of the teams is to conduct child protective investigations of reported child sexual abuse and severe child abuse and to support and provide services to sexually abused children and severely abused children upon referral as deemed by the teams to be necessary and appropriate for such children.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-607(b)(2)(A), is amended by deleting the language "sexual abuse report" and substituting the language "sexual abuse report or severe child abuse report".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-607(b)(2)(A)(ii), is amended by deleting the language "sexually abused" and substituting the language "severely or sexually abused".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-607(b)(3), is amended by deleting the language "sexual abuse" wherever it appears and substituting the language "sexual abuse or severe child abuse".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-607(c)(1), is amended by deleting the language "sexual abuse" wherever it appears and substituting the language "sexual abuse or severe child abuse".

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-607(c)(2), is amended by deleting the language "sexually abused" and substituting the language "sexually or severely abused".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-607, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(d) As used in this section, "severe child abuse" has the same meaning as defined in § 37-1-102.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-406(b), is amended by redesignating the current language as subdivision (b)(1) and adding the following subdivision (b)(2):

(2) In cases involving a report of harm alleging facts that, if proved, would constitute severe child abuse as defined in § 37-1-102, the investigation must be conducted by a child protective investigation team pursuant to § 37-1-607. In the event an immediate investigation has been initiated, the department shall notify the child protection team as soon as possible, and the team shall proceed with the investigation in accordance with § 37-1-607.

SECTION 10. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.