

SENATE BILL 644

By Robinson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 2, Part 4 and Title 37, Chapter 5, relative to siblings in foster care.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 2, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) An agency shall provide a child in foster care with contact information for each sibling who is not in the same home as the child if maintaining contact with the sibling is in the best interests of each sibling.

(b) A child in foster care must not be punished for behavioral problems by restricting contact with the child's sibling.

(c) As used in this section, "sibling" includes full siblings, half siblings, and step-siblings.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.