

SENATE BILL 2358

By Watson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 36; Title 37 and Title 71, relative to children.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-148, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding the following as a new subsection (b):

(b) The department shall promulgate rules to require that if an individual or member of the individual's household objects to an immunization on the basis of religious or moral convictions, then the department shall not require the individual or member of the individual's household to undergo any immunization as a condition of adopting.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-2-419, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding the following as a new subsection (b):

(b) The department shall promulgate rules to require that if an individual or member of the individual's household objects to an immunization on the basis of religious or moral convictions, then the department shall not require the individual or member of the individual's household to undergo any immunization as a condition of overseeing a child in foster care.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

The department shall submit to the United States department of health and human services a waiver request to exempt this state from the immunization requirements of the National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards for Title

IV-E agencies. The department must submit this waiver prior to or as part of the department's next occurring Title IV-E program plan application submission to the United States department of health and human services. The department shall promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section.

SECTION 4. The promulgation of rules required by this act must be in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.