

SENATE BILL 2421

By Overbey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1; Title 37, Chapter 5; Title 49, Chapter 10 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to the detection, intervention and prevention of child sexual abuse.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-601(a), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead:

(a) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(1) The incidence of child sexual abuse has a tremendous impact on the victimized child, siblings, family structure, and inevitably on all citizens of this state;

(2) The detection, intervention, prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse, including a focus on the sexual abuse that occurs within the home, shall be a priority of this state;

(3) Sexual abuse in any form is destruction to the physical and mental health of a child;

(4) Ninety-three percent (93%) of all sexual abuse occurs in the home of a child by a family member;

(5) It is necessary that curriculum addressing sexual abuse include a focus on the in home abuse; and

(6) A comprehensive approach for the detection, intervention, prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse, including such abuse that may occur in the

home, be developed for the state and that this planned, comprehensive approach be used as a basis for funding.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-603(b)(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead:

The departments of education and children's services, and the state board of education, shall work together on the enhancement or adaptation of curriculum materials to assist instructional personnel in providing instruction through a multi-disciplinary approach on the detection, intervention, prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse, including such abuse that may occur in the home. The curriculum materials shall be geared toward a sequential program of instruction at progressional levels for kindergarten (K) through grade twelve (12). Strategies for utilizing the curriculum shall be included in the comprehensive plan;

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.