

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 662

SENATE BILL NO. 2974

**By Black, Gresham, Norris, McNally, Burks, Marrero, Harper, Barnes, Berke,
Ford**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3020

By Sherry Jones, Hackworth, Weaver, Fraley, Maddox, Litz, Shaw; Mr. Speaker Williams; Jim Cobb, Mike Turner, Ferguson, Odom, Fincher, Lois DeBerry, Camper, Ulysses Jones, Floyd, Eldridge, Shepard, Brown, John Deberry, Tindell, Yokley, Bone, Stewart, Ty Cobb, Pitts, Bass, McDonald, Borchert, Pruitt, Harmon, Towns, Evans, Gilmore, Miller, Harry Brooks, Kernell, McDaniel, Richardson, Rich, Maggart, Johnnie Turner, Naifeh, Faulkner, Marsh, Matheny, Todd, Dean, Sontany, Hensley, Hill, Shipley, Phillip Johnson, Tidwell, Fitzhugh, West, Montgomery, Halford, Dunn, McCormick, Matlock, Hawk, Harrison, White, Casada, Harwell, Winningham, Favors, Barker, Swafford, Curtis Johnson, Lynn, Ramsey, Lundberg, Roach, Armstrong, Bell, Dennis, McManus, Hardaway, Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, relative to children placed in state custody.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-2-205(f), is amended by deleting it in its entirety and hereby substituting the following language:

(f)(1)(A) In order to enhance communication between the Department of Children's Services and juvenile court judges across the state, the department shall provide to the juvenile court judge(s) for each county a report which includes:

(i) The number of commitments to state custody for dependent and neglected children, unruly children, and delinquent children for the previous twelve (12) month period by county.

(ii) The statewide average commitment rate per thousand youth based on the latest county population data as provided by the Department of Health.

(B) The report shall be provided to judges on a semiannual basis and shall also be made available on the department's Web site.

(2) The department may initiate a collaborative planning process at the time a county's commitment rate is believed to be likely to exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the statewide average commitment rate. Upon request of the court, the department shall partner with the court to develop and implement strategies to address any factors contributing to higher commitment rates in such county.

(3) On or before February 1 of each year, the Department of Children's Services shall provide to the Select Committee on Children and Youth a report of county commitment data for the previous calendar year and a description of actions taken as part of the collaborative planning process.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: March 22, 2010



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 30th day of March 2010



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR