

**CHAPTER NO. 185**

**SENATE BILL NO. 554**

**By Burks, Crutchfield, Jackson, Ketron, Kurita**

**Substituted for: House Bill No. 123**

**By Sherry Jones, Henri Brooks**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-403, relative to child abuse reporting.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-403(a)(2)(B), is amended by deleting the language "County office of the department;" and by substituting instead the language "Department, in a manner specified by the department, either by contacting a local representative of the department or by utilizing the department's centralized intake procedure, where applicable;".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-403, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and by redesignating the remaining subsections accordingly.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-403, is further amended by inserting the following as a new, appropriately designated subsection thereto:

( ) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any hospital, clinic, school, or other organization responsible for the care of children from developing a specific procedure for internally tracking, investigating, reporting, or otherwise monitoring a report made by a member of its staff pursuant to this section, including requiring a member of its staff who makes such a report to provide a copy of or notice concerning such report to the organization, so long as such procedure does not inhibit, interfere with, or otherwise affect the duty of a person to make a report as required by subsection (a).

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 5, 2005

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2005

  
PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR