

**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1065**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3114**

**By Representatives Sherry Jones, Gilmore, Richardson, Hardaway, Towns,  
Cooper**

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 3101

By Senators Marrero, Barnes, Beavers, Berke, Black, Bunch, Burchett, Burks, Crowe, Faulk, Finney, Ford, Gresham, Harper, Haynes, Henry, Herron, Jackson, Johnson, Kelsey, Ketron, Kyle, McNally, Norris, Overbey, Southerland, Stewart, Tate, Tracy, Watson, Woodson, Yager and Mr. Speaker Ramsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, relative to extension of foster care services.

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:

§ 37-2-41 7.

(a) This section may be known and cited as "Tennessee's Transitioning Youth Empowerment Act of 2010".

(b) The department of children's services is authorized to develop a program to provide services to youth who are transitioning to adulthood from state custody. Services may be provided on a voluntary basis to any person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age but less than twenty one (21) years of age, who was in the custody of the department at the time of the person's eighteenth birthday and who is:

(1) Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;

(2) Enrolled in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational education;

(3) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to employment;

(4) Employed for at least eighty (80) hours per month; or

(5) Incapable of doing any of the activities described in subdivisions (b)(1) through (b)(4) due to a medical condition, including a developmental or intellectual condition, which incapability is supported by regularly updated information in the

permanency plan of the person. In such a case the person shall be in compliance with a course of treatment as recommended by the department.

(c) Services may also be made available to any person who meets the requirements of subsection (b) but refused such services at the time of the person's eighteenth birthday if at any time the person seeks to regain services prior to the person's twenty-first birthday.

(d) The advisory committee established in § 37-2-601 shall serve as an advisory committee for programs and services established by this section.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of children's services shall establish policies and procedures in order to create and implement this program.

SECTION 3. The department is authorized to seek federal funding or to participate in federal programs developed for this purpose.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-102(b)(4), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision (B)(4)(G):

A person over the age of eighteen (18) shall be allowed to remain under the continuing jurisdiction of the juvenile court for purposes of the voluntary extension of services pursuant to § 37-2-417.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010, the public welfare requiring it and shall be repealed on June 30, 2012. The repeal of this act shall not affect any programs that provide services to youth who are transitioning to adulthood from state custody and that are administered by the department of children's services prior to the effective date of this act.

**PASSED: June 4, 2010**



KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 21st day of June 2010**



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PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR