

HOUSE BILL 1195

By Ragan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;  
Title 7 and Title 71, relative to immigration.

WHEREAS, in 2008, the State of Tennessee withdrew from administering the refugee resettlement program in Tennessee, but appointed Catholic Charities as the fiduciary agency for the State's refugee program; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes the importance of government oversight and accountability relative to the status of refugees and unaccompanied minor children who are located in the State; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the General Assembly that this State's refugee resettlement program be administered by the Department of Human Services in a manner consistent with the State's administration of the program and to further the objectives of the Refugee Absorptive Capacity Act, compiled in Title 4, Chapter 38; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

The department shall negotiate with the federal office of refugee resettlement to reacquire state administration of the refugee resettlement program. The department shall utilize existing resources and personnel in the implementation of this section.

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