

HOUSE BILL 725

By Pody

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 71, relative to refugee resettlement.

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:

(a) It is the intent of the general assembly that this state's refugee resettlement program be administered by the department in a manner consistent with state administration of the program prior to 2008 and in compliance with the Refugee Absorptive Capacity Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 38.

(b) The department shall negotiate with the federal office of refugee resettlement to reacquire state administration of the refugee resettlement program.

(c) By January 15, 2016, the commissioner shall report to the state and local government committee of the senate and the state government committee of the house of representatives as to progress made in the reacquisition of state administration of the refugee resettlement program. If the program has been reacquired by January 15, 2016, the commissioner shall report on the general administration of the program from the time of reacquisition to the report date.

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