

**Supporting Adoptions, Reducing Barriers**  
**Sub HB 7 (Representative Tom Brinkman, sponsor)**

**Permanency for Children**

- Establishes Child-Centered Recruitment Task Force at ODJFS to create a uniform child-centered recruitment model for finding adoptive families for children in the public system waiting for permanent families (Temporary Law Sec 3)
- Allows a PCSA with custody of a child living in Ohio to request the Court by-pass reasonable efforts if the parent(s) had parental rights of a sibling of that child, involuntarily terminated in another state; permits parent to rebut a court determination with clear and convincing evidence (Sec 2151.414)
- If the custody category of Planned Permanent Living Arrangement is to be used due to child's placement in residential/institutional care, the expectation must be for now and the foreseeable future beyond dispositional date (Sec 2151.353)
- Simplifies motion for Permanent Custody and clarifies circumstances when there is no other alternative but to grant permanent custody; reinforces state and federal legislative intent that no child shall remain in temporary custody for more than two years by design (Sec 2151.414; 2151.353; 2151.415)
- Requires court to consider parents' ability to meet the needs of all other children in the home when deciding to issue a support order when parents voluntarily place a child into temporary custody (Sec 2151.361)

**Promote Adoption as a Positive Option**

- Requires certain programs to emphasize adoption as an option in cases of unintended pregnancies (Sec 3313.6011; 3317.024; 5107.30)
- PCSA caseworker and supervisor mandatory training curriculum expanded to include educating pregnant or parenting persons on their caseloads about adoption as an option for unintended pregnancies (Sec 5153.122; 5153.123)

**Streamline Adoption Process and Procedures, Reduce Barriers**

- Requires ODJFS adopt rules to align foster care certification and adoption approval processes (Sec 3107.033; 5103.03)
- Allows time a child has been placed in the adoptive home to count toward the six month waiting period before a final decree or interlocutory order is issued (section 3107.14)
- Makes it easier for legal guardian or custodian of a child to approach the court and request a finalization of adoption (Sec 3107.06)
- Clarifies adoption assessor providing placement or post-placement services must make "monthly" home visits in a prospective adoptive home until final decree of adoption (3107.102)
- Allows payment, in private adoptions, of birth mother's living expenses during pregnancy and two months following birth; payment capped at \$3,000 and must go through attorney or agency, not directly to mother (Sec 3107.055)

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**Changes in Sub Bill (- 5 Version):**

- Deletes phrase "significant period of time" and replaces it with "now and for the foreseeable future" in section 2151.353 on use of planned permanent living arrangement for children placed in residential / institutional care
- "Clear and convincing evidence" and "best interest of child" added to existing law to clarify when consent to adoption is not required when the parent failed to communicate or provide maintenance and support without justifiable cause (Sec 3107.07)
- Adds definition of "nonidentifying information"; clarifies existing law that birth parent may request nonidentifying info about adoptee and adop parents when the adoptee is "eighteen years of age or older" (Sec 3107.66)
- Deletes phrase "include instruction" and replaces it with "provide information" in section 5107.30 as it pertains to LEAP program emphasizing adoption as a positive option in cases of unintended pregnancies

