

Companion Adoption Bills Outline

Sub SB 287 & Sub HB 529

Senator Tom Niehaus and Rep. Jeff Wagner, sponsors

SHARING OF INFORMATION FOR CHILD SAFETY

- Requires child abuse neglect history to be included in adoptive home study; unsubstantiated reports will not be included; individuals may appeal denial for this reason (Section 3107.033 & .034, 5103.18)
- Requires public and private agencies or independent placing attorneys to notify the Public Children Services Agency in the county of residence upon initiating home study and at time of impending placements; authorizes the exchange of relevant information; does not allow home PCSA to veto placement; provides qualified immunity from liability for exchanging information. (Section 3107.10)
- Establishes misdemeanor offense for falsification of information by an adoption applicant or adoption assessor (Section 3107.011, 3107.031, 5103.03)
- Allows all adoptive parents and adoptees access to non-identifying medical and social histories (Section 3107.66)
- Requires ODJFS to adopt rules regarding private child placing and private non-custodial agencies' access to, data entry requirements and confidential use of information in SACWIS (Section 5101.143)

CHILD SAFETY & NEEDS

- Requires a multiple children assessment when considering an adoptive placement in a family with five or more children; does not prohibit, but requires assessment (Section 3107.032)
- Requires visiting a child within 7 days of adoptive placement, then every 30 days face-to-face visits with child and prospective adoptive parents, until finalization. Authorizes ODJFS to create rules for contacting other children and adults living in the home (Section 3107.101)
- Increases mandated training hours for PCSA caseworkers from 90 to 102 hours in their first year of employment, and expands course requirements to include accepting reports of child abuse, neglect, dependency and assessing child safety (Section 5153.122)
- Expands the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect to include respite, home health, and homemaker workers, all adoption assessors, plus other individuals hired by PCSAs to provide services to children and families (Section 2151.421)

OTHER

- Excludes stepparent adoptions from new provisions (Sections 3107.033, 3107.10, 3107.101)
- Creates an adoption assessor registry, to be housed by ODJFS (Section 3107.014)
- Allows adoption of former foster youth ages 18 – 21, that have emancipated out of the system (Section 3107.02)
- Provides qualified immunity to foster parents in their caring for children (Section 5103.162)
- Creates sharing of case planning and equal fiscal responsibility, between original custodial county and county of adoptive family residence, in cases when a finalized adoption results in return to agency custody (Section 5153.20)