

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6713
BILL NUMBER: SB 301

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 21, 2020
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Child Services Oversight Committee.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Houchin
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: The bill establishes the Child Services Oversight Committee (committee).

The bill requires the committee to review case decisions of the Department of Child Services (DCS) and the juvenile courts in certain cases with negative outcomes, make recommendations to the DCS and the Legislative Council, study topics assigned by the Legislative Council, and study any other issues relevant to the activities of the DCS and improving child safety.

It authorizes the committee to meet at any time at the call of the chairperson. It also provides that records reviewed by the committee are confidential and may not be disclosed. It specifies other policies governing the committee.

The bill requires a local office or the DCS to redact any identifying information from any record provided to the committee.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill establishes a 16-member committee, operating under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$17,500 per interim for committees with 16 or more members. Although subject to the rules of interim study committees, this committee is not limited in the number of meetings it holds or to the budget requirements.

The DCS will have a workload increase to provide a report on the number of times serious bodily injury or

fatality occur after a child remains in a home or is returned to the home. Also, the DCS or its local offices will have to redact information that is provided to the committee. Depending on the number of cases and volume of records provided, the requirements for redaction may be outside of the DCS' routine administrative functions, and existing staffing and resource levels, if currently being used to capacity, may be insufficient for full implementation. The additional funds and resources required could be supplied through existing staff and resources currently being used in another program or with new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend on legislative and administrative actions.

Additional Information - The committee members and individuals invited to attend committee meetings are to sign confidentiality statements. Meetings of the committee are open to the public, except when the meeting involves confidential records or identifying information regarding the death of a child.

The committee reports to the Legislative Council by November 1. The LSA is to provide staff support to the committee and committee expenses are to be paid from the appropriations to the Legislative Council.

State Fatality Review Coordinator: The bill requires the child fatality review coordinator to prepare a confidentiality statement for each member of the Committee to sign. It also requires the coordinator to make the form available to the LSA. These provisions will have no fiscal impact.

Under current law, the child fatality review coordinator prepares confidentiality forms for the members of the Statewide Child Fatality Review Committee. It is the duty of the Committee to create strategies and make recommendations for the safety of children and the prevention of serious injuries or deaths of children. It also provides expertise, consultation, guidance, and training to local child fatality review teams.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: General Assembly; Legislative Services Agency; Department of Child Services; Child Fatality Review Coordinator.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: IC 16-49-4.

Fiscal Analyst: Karen Rossen, 317-234-2106.