

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

200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
iga.in.gov

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6713
BILL NUMBER: SB 301

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 17, 2021
BILL AMENDED: Feb 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Legislative Committee for Oversight of Child Services.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Houchin
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill establishes the Legislative Committee for Oversight of Child Services (legislative committee). It allows the committee to review data reported by the Statewide Child Protection and Review Committee (review committee) and services provided to children and families in any case reviewed by the Statewide Child Protection and Fatality Review Team.

It requires the committee to advise state agencies on certain matters and it allows the committee to meet with a local child serious bodily injury and fatality review team and make recommendations to certain people about how to prevent child deaths and improve child safety.

The bill delineates the records the committee can obtain and review and the confidentiality requirements for the records.

The bill also changes the name of the review committee; the State Child Fatality Review Coordinator (coordinator); and the local, county and regional child fatality review teams. It increases the number of review committee members from 15 to 19.

The bill makes conforming changes.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill establishes a 16-member legislative committee, operating under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council, except concerning budget requirements or limits on the number of meeting. The legislative committee will hold at least one meeting

each quarter and may employ consultants. [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.]

(Revised) Review Committee and Coordinator: The inclusion of cases involving the Department of Child Services, and complaints of child abuse and neglect brought to a local review committees or received in writing by the review committee will increase the workload of the review committee and the coordinator. In addition to providing administrative support for the review committee, the coordinator will be a member of the legislative committee. To accomplish the additional workload, the Indiana State Department of Health estimates an added cost of \$232,000 for three additional staff and supporting services. 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.

Increasing to 19 the number of members on the review committee will increase the amount of mileage reimbursement. The members receive mileage reimbursement and are not entitled to compensation or per diem.

Additional Information - Legislative Services Agency staffs the legislative committee, including insuring confidentiality agreements are signed by committee members and invitees of the chair. The legislative committee reports to the Legislative Council by November 1 and this committee's expenses are to be paid from the appropriations to the Legislative Council. The House and Senate member of the review committee would also be reimbursed through the Legislative Council. 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 additional cases to be reviewed may be significant based on information from other currently available reports. The Review Committee reports of the approximate 900 child fatalities each year; they review about 315 or 35% of the total. On average, between 2013 and 2020, there were 12 offenders a year committed to a state facility for serious bodily injury to a person under 14 years old. In 2019, the Department of Child Services investigated 276 child fatalities connected with abuse and neglect, with 61 of those child deaths directly resulting from caregiver maltreatment or neglect. To the extent that the review committee reviews cases where serious bodily injuries are sustained but did not result in fatalities, there may be more cases reviewed.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Workload may increase for county, local, or regional child serious injury and fatality review teams to review serious bodily injuries sustained by children within the area of of the review team.

Additional Information - There are six regional fatality committees and one unofficial regional committee, four counties with unofficial committees, and two counties do not have fatality review teams.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

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

Local Agencies Affected: Local child fatality review teams.

Information Sources: IC 16-49-4; ISDH website, status of local child fatality review teams, accessed on February 15, 2021; ISDH, *Indiana Statewide Child Fatality Review Committee, 2018 Report on Child Deaths*, submitted in 2019; DCS, *2019 Annual Report of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities in Indiana*, published December 2020; Amy Kent, ISDH.

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