

# **HOUSE . . . . . No. 4841**

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, July 7, 2020.

The committee on Ways and Means to whom was referred the Bill relative to DCF legislative reporting reform (House, No. 4163), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4841).

For the committee,

AARON MICHLEWITZ.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4841**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act relative to accountability for vulnerable children and families.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to forthwith protect vulnerable children and families, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The twenty-second paragraph of subdivision (a) of section 172 of chapter 6 of the  
2 General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out  
3 clause (22) and inserting in place thereof the following clause:- (22) The district attorney may  
4 obtain from the department data permitted under section 15 of chapter 18C.

5 SECTION 2. The second paragraph of section 16P of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as  
6 so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out clause (iii) and inserting in place thereof the  
7 following clause:- (iii) the data reported by the department of children and families under  
8 subsection (b) of section 3A of chapter 18B and the department of mental health under section 24  
9 of chapter 19.

10 SECTION 3. Chapter 18B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
11 inserting after section 3 the following section:-

12 Section 3A. (a)(1) Annually, not later than October 31, the department shall issue a report  
13 that provides an overview of the department's performance during the previous fiscal year. The  
14 commissioner or a designee shall file the report with the governor, the child advocate, the clerks  
15 of the house of representatives and the senate, the chairs of the house and senate committees on  
16 ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with  
17 disabilities. The commissioner shall provide the recipients of the report with an opportunity to  
18 discuss its contents with the commissioner or a designee. The report shall be made publicly  
19 available on the department's website in accordance with section 19 of chapter 66.

20 (2) The report shall include, but not be limited to, narratives, information, data and  
21 analysis on: (i) counts, including, but not limited to: (A) case counts; (B) consumer counts; (C)  
22 consumer demographic information, including age, race, ethnicity, primary language, and, if  
23 available, gender identity and sexual orientation; (D) reports filed pursuant to section 51A of  
24 chapter 119; (E) placement metrics, including breakdown by placement type; (F) infants brought  
25 into the department's care pursuant to section 39½ of chapter 119; and (G) siblings in placement;  
26 (ii) processes and outcomes, including but not limited to: (A) safety outcomes; (B) permanency  
27 processes and outcomes; (C) the rates of adoptions by race, ethnicity, and, if available, gender  
28 identity and sexual orientation of the child; and (D) well-being outcomes, including the rates and  
29 timeliness of the delivery of medical services and high school graduation rates; and (iii)  
30 operations, including, but not limited to: (A) staffing trends, including the total number of social  
31 workers, the total number of social workers holding licensure by level of licensure and the  
32 number of social workers and supervisors who have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in  
33 social work; (B) caseloads, including weighted caseload by social workers' years of employment  
34 with the department and area offices that experienced higher or lower caseloads than the

35 negotiated caseload standard over the course of the fiscal year; (C) the department's budget,  
36 including funding levels; (D) service costs, including, but not limited to, a breakdown by type of  
37 service provided, the unduplicated number of children receiving each type of service and the  
38 unduplicated number of families receiving each type of service; (E) medical services and  
39 advancements in providing medical services to children and young adults in the department's  
40 care; (F) amounts expended to foster care and to adoptive and guardianship families to provide  
41 assistance, including financial assistance, to provide for the care of children; (G) the use of  
42 culturally competent staffing, resources and practices; and (H) the foster care review system,  
43 including the number of foster care reviews conducted by the department, attendance of  
44 mandatory invitees to foster care review meetings, reasons why mandatory invitees do not attend  
45 foster care review meetings and any recommendations for its improvement. The report shall also  
46 include comparative departmental information from prior fiscal years.

47 (3) The report shall include specific data points, including: (i) the number of medical and  
48 psychiatric personnel and their level of training currently employed by or under contract with the  
49 department; (ii) the number of children who die in the care and custody of the department; (iii)  
50 the number of children served in medical or psychiatric care provided through other publicly-  
51 funded sources; (iv) the number of the department's contracts reviewed by the state auditor; (v)  
52 the number of corrective action plans entered into by the department; (vi) the number of children  
53 currently eligible for supportive child care; (vii) the number of children receiving supportive  
54 child care; (viii) the number of children and families served by the family resource centers by  
55 area office and an evaluation of the services provided and their effectiveness; (ix) for residential  
56 placements, the length of each placement and the disposition of the child's case at the end of the  
57 residential placement, including whether the child was returned to the child's family or placed in

58 other care within the community; (x) placement stability, including the number of times any  
59 child in the care and custody of the department has changed placements throughout the fiscal  
60 year and throughout their time in the care and custody of the department; (xi) the number of  
61 children whose cases were transferred to another area office; and (xii) the number of children  
62 who were reassigned social workers, including the reasons why.

63 (b)(1) Quarterly, not later than 45 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the department  
64 shall issue a profile on its website in accordance with section 19 of chapter 66 that shall include,  
65 but not be limited to, departmental, regional office and area office data for the last quarter on: (i)  
66 consumer counts; (ii) the number of reports filed pursuant to section 51A of chapter 119,  
67 including counts of reports received, screened-in, screened-out, referred to the district attorney,  
68 responses completed on time in the quarter and the number of reports filed by each category of  
69 mandated reporter, as defined in section 21 of chapter 119; (iii) department case counts,  
70 including counts of clinical and adoption cases in the quarter; (iv) consumer demographic  
71 information, including age, race, ethnicity, primary language, and, if available, gender identity  
72 and sexual orientation; (v) counts of children and youth in-placement, including method of  
73 intake; and (vi) counts of children and youth not in-placement.

74 (2) The profile shall include specific data points for the department and each regional and  
75 area office, including: (i) the number of approved foster care placements and utilization rate; (ii)  
76 the number of children who die in the care and custody of the department; (iii) the number of  
77 children within the care and custody of the department in psychiatric hospitals and community-  
78 based acute treatment programs who remain hospitalized beyond their medically-necessary stay  
79 while awaiting placement and the number of days each case remains in placement beyond that  
80 which is medically necessary; (iv) the number of medical and psychiatric consultation requests

81 made by the department's social workers; (v) the number of children served by supervised  
82 visitation centers; (vi) the total number of families served by the department and residing in  
83 shelters; (vii) the number of children receiving multiple 51A reports; (viii) the number of  
84 children within the care and custody of the department whose whereabouts are unknown; and  
85 (ix) the number of times children transfer schools as a result of a best interest determination.

86 (3) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall notify the house and senate  
87 committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children, families and persons with  
88 disabilities when data from a profile issued pursuant to paragraph (1) significantly departs from  
89 trends reported in previous profiles. The commissioner shall send the notification prior to  
90 publicly issuing the profile.

91 (c) Annually, not later than October 31, the department shall submit a report on transition  
92 planning for children in foster care and young adults over the age of 18 receiving services from  
93 the department to the child advocate, the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the  
94 house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children, families  
95 and persons with disabilities. The report shall summarize the process by which the department  
96 develops transition plans for youth and how a young adult may continue to receive services from  
97 the department upon reaching the legal adult age of 18. The report shall also include, but not be  
98 limited to: (i) consumer demographic information, including age, race, ethnicity, primary  
99 language, and, if available, gender identity and sexual orientation; (ii) the number of young  
100 adults who have elected to sustain a connection with the department in the previous fiscal year;  
101 (iii) the number of young adults who have elected not to remain with the department and have  
102 transitioned out of the child welfare system in the previous fiscal year, including, but not limited  
103 to, at the time of transition: (A) the number of young adults with and without employment, (B)

104 the number of young adults with plans to attend post-secondary education, (C) the number of  
105 young adults without secure housing and (D) the number of young adults who had previously  
106 elected to sustain a connection with the department; (iv) the number of young adults who elected  
107 to return to the child welfare system after initially electing to transfer out; (v) reasons for youth  
108 and young adults exiting care from age 18 to their 23rd birthday; (vi) the total payments made  
109 from commonwealth funds to young adults in the previous fiscal year; and (vii) a description of  
110 services provided to young adults by the department in the previous fiscal year, including those  
111 funded wholly or in part by federal funds. The department may satisfy the reporting requirements  
112 of this subsection by providing the requested information in an annual report filed under  
113 subsection (a).

114 (d) Annually, not later than October 31, the department shall file a report on its fair  
115 hearing process and cases with the child advocate, the clerks of the house of representatives and  
116 the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on  
117 children, families and persons with disabilities. The report shall be made available to the public  
118 electronically in accordance with section 19 of chapter 66 of the General Laws. The report shall  
119 include, but not be limited to, information in a form that shall not include personally-identifiable  
120 information on the fair hearing requests open at any time during the previous fiscal year and, for  
121 each hearing request, shall provide: (i) the subject matter of the appeal; (ii) the outcomes of cases  
122 resolved prior to a fair hearing decision; (iii) the number of days between the hearing request and  
123 the first day of the hearing; (iv) the number of days between the close of the evidence and the  
124 hearing officer's decision; (v) the number of days of continuance granted at the appellant's  
125 request; (vi) the number of days of continuance granted at the request of the department of  
126 children and families or the hearing officer's request, specifying which party made the request;

127 and (vii) whether the department's decision that was the subject of the appeal was affirmed or  
128 reversed.

129           The department shall maintain and make available to the public, during regular business  
130 hours, a record of its fair hearings in a form that shall not include personally identifiable  
131 information and shall include, for each hearing request: (i) the date of the request; (ii) the date of  
132 the hearing decision; (iii) the decision rendered by the hearing officer; and (iv) the final decision  
133 rendered upon the commissioner's review. The report shall provide for the fair hearing requests  
134 that are pending for more than 180 days at any time during the fiscal year, except for those  
135 requests stayed at the request of the district attorney, the number of those cases, how many of  
136 those cases have been heard but not decided and how many have been decided by the hearing  
137 officer but not yet issued a final agency decision. If there are more than 225 fair hearing requests  
138 open for more than 180 days at the close of any month of the first 6 months of a fiscal year, then  
139 an additional report of these requests shall be provided not later than February 28. The  
140 department shall make redacted copies of fair hearing decisions available within 30 days after a  
141 written request.

142           (e) Annually, not later than October 31, the office of the ombudsman shall file a report on  
143 the questions and concerns it received during the previous fiscal year with the child advocate, the  
144 clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways  
145 and means and the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities. The report  
146 shall be made available to the public electronically in accordance with section 19 of chapter 66  
147 of the General Laws. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number of calls the  
148 office of the ombudsman received; (ii) the number of people contacting the office of the  
149 ombudsman; (iii) the category of people contacting the office, including consumers, foster



150 parents, adoptive parents, advocates, legislators, and general members of the public; (iv) the  
151 number and types of each category of contact, including, but not limited to, general questions or  
152 complaints about a specific case, referral to department services, or referral to services outside of  
153 the scope of the department; (v) the number of questions and concerns resolved by the office of  
154 the ombudsman; (vi) the number of questions and concerns referred to department services (vii)  
155 the number of questions and concerns referred to another state agency; (viii) the number of  
156 questions and concerns referred to a service or organization outside of state government; and (ix)  
157 other actions taken by the office of the ombudsman to serve children and families.

158 (f) Annually, not later than November 30, the department shall file a report on contracted  
159 services with the child advocate, the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the  
160 house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children, families  
161 and persons with disabilities. The report shall be made available to the public electronically in  
162 accordance with section 19 of chapter 66 of the General Laws. The report shall summarize the  
163 services provided by the department through contracted agencies in the previous fiscal year. The  
164 report shall also include, but not be limited to: (i) the number of new contracts entered into or  
165 renewed by the department; (ii) the number of contracts that ended; (iii) the total number of  
166 active contracts; (iv) the names of each agency and provider contracted with and receiving  
167 funding from the department; (v) the services provided by each agency and provider contracted  
168 with and receiving funding from the department; (vi) the number of clients served by each  
169 agency and provider contracted with and receiving funds from the department; (vii) the amount  
170 paid to each agency and provider contracted with and receiving funding from the department,  
171 including a breakdown by services provided and the source of funding, including, but not limited  
172 to, state appropriations, state trusts, federal reimbursements and private donations; and (viii) the

173 geographic areas served by each agency and provider contracted with and receiving funding  
174 from the department.

175 (g) The commissioner or the commissioner’s designees shall notify the joint committee  
176 on children, families and persons with disabilities when draft regulations or departmental  
177 policies are made available by the department for public comment. Not more than 30 days after  
178 the promulgation of regulations or the effective date of adopted or revised departmental policies  
179 relative to services provided to children and families, the department shall provide the joint  
180 committee on children, families and persons with disabilities with copies of the regulations or  
181 departmental policies.

182 (h) If the department is unable to submit the report under subsection (a), issue the profile  
183 under subsection (c), or any other legislatively mandated reports by the respective deadlines, the  
184 commissioner or the commissioner’s legal counsel shall notify the governor, the child advocate,  
185 the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on  
186 ways and means and the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities in  
187 writing and provide an explanation for the delay. The department shall, at the written request of  
188 the chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, provide the  
189 committee with partial data if the report under subsection (a), the profile under subsection (b), or  
190 any other legislatively mandated report is late due to maturation or confirmation of certain data  
191 points while other information may be ready for public submission. For the purposes of this  
192 section, the term “legislatively mandated report” shall mean a report required by law of the  
193 department of children and families.

194 SECTION 4. Section 6A of said chapter 18B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
195 striking out the fifth paragraph.

196 SECTION 5. Section 7 of said chapter 18B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
197 striking out subsection (e).

198 SECTION 6. Section 20 of said chapter 18B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
199 striking out the second sentence.

200 SECTION 7. Section 23 of said chapter 18B, inserted by section 45 of chapter 176 of the  
201 acts of 2008, is hereby repealed.

202 SECTION 8. Section 23 of said chapter 18B, inserted by section 8 of chapter 321 of the  
203 acts of 2008, is hereby amended by striking out the sixth sentence.

204 SECTION 9. Section 24 of said chapter 18B, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is  
205 hereby repealed.

206 SECTION 10. Section 25 of said chapter 18B, as so appearing, is hereby repealed.

207 SECTION 11. Said chapter 18B, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding  
208 the following section:-

209 Section 26. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any social service  
210 program, as defined by section 22N of chapter 7, or any program or service which is  
211 reimbursable under Title XIX of the Social Security Act that is providing services to a child who  
212 is in the custody of or receiving services from the department or is providing services to a young  
213 adult or adult receiving services from the department, shall provide the department with  
214 requested information within 5 business days of receiving a request from a department social

215 worker requesting said information for the purposes of conducting a collateral check; provided,  
216 that programs or services shall comply with all applicable state and federal privacy requirements,  
217 including those imposed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996,  
218 P.L. 104–191, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111–5, 42 C.F.R. §  
219 2.11 et seq. and 45 C.F.R. §§ 160, 162 and 164.

220 SECTION 12. Section 5 of chapter 18C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
221 amended by adding the following subsection:-

222 (i) Following an investigation by the child advocate of a critical incident pursuant to this  
223 section that results in the death of a child, due to a reasonable belief that an executive agency or  
224 constituent agency failed in its duty to protect a child, at least 48 hours before releasing the  
225 results of the investigation the child advocate shall report jointly and simultaneously to a  
226 convening of the governor, the attorney general, the speaker of the house of representatives and  
227 the senate president. In order to ensure the integrity and independence of the office of the child  
228 advocate, no executive office, agency or program that is the subject of such an investigation shall  
229 receive the results of said investigation prior to the joint convening of the governor, the attorney  
230 general, the speaker of the house of representatives and the senate president.

231 SECTION 13. Section 12 of said chapter 18C, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
232 by inserting, in line 36, after the word “personnel,” the following words:- the speaker of the  
233 house of representatives, the senate president.

234 SECTION 14. Said chapter 18C, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding  
235 the following section:-

236 Section 15. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context  
237 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

238 “Child”, a person under the age of 18.

239 “Fatality”, any death of a child.

240 “Local team”, a local child fatality review team established in subsection (c).

241 “Near fatality”, an act that, as certified by a physician, places a child in serious or critical  
242 condition.

243 “State team”, the state child fatality review team established in subsection (b).

244 “Team”, the state or a local team.

245 (b) There shall be a state child fatality review team within the office of the child  
246 advocate. Notwithstanding section 172 of chapter 6, members of the state team shall be subject  
247 to criminal offender record checks to be conducted by the colonel of the state police, on behalf of  
248 the child advocate. All members shall serve without compensation for their duties associated  
249 with membership on the state team.

250 The state team shall consist of at least the following members: the child advocate  
251 appointed pursuant to section 3 of chapter 18C or a designee, who shall co-chair the state team;  
252 the commissioner of public health or a designee, who shall co-chair the state team; the chief  
253 medical examiner or a designee; the attorney general or a designee; the commissioner of children  
254 and families or a designee; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a  
255 designee; a representative selected by the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association; the  
256 colonel of the state police or a designee; the commissioner of mental health or a designee; the

257 commissioner of developmental services or a designee; the director of the Massachusetts center  
258 for unexpected infant and child death, located at the Boston Medical Center, or a designee; the  
259 commissioner of youth services or a designee; the commissioner of early education and care or a  
260 designee; a representative selected by the Massachusetts chapter of the American Academy of  
261 Pediatrics who has experience in diagnosing or treating child abuse and neglect; a representative  
262 selected by the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, Inc.; the chief justice of the  
263 juvenile division of the trial court or a designee; the president of the Massachusetts Chiefs of  
264 Police Association Incorporated or a designee; and any other person, selected by the co-chairs or  
265 by majority vote of the members of the state team, with expertise or information relevant to an  
266 individual case. The purpose of the state team shall be to decrease the incidence of preventable  
267 child fatalities and near fatalities by: (i) developing an understanding of the causes and incidence  
268 of child fatalities and near fatalities; and (ii) advising the governor, the general court and the  
269 public by recommending changes in law, policy and practice that will prevent child fatalities and  
270 near fatalities.

271 To achieve its purpose, the state team shall: (i) develop model investigative and data  
272 collection protocols for local teams; (ii) provide information to local teams and law enforcement  
273 agencies for the purpose of the protection of children; (iii) provide training and written materials  
274 to local teams to assist them in carrying out their duties; (iv) review reports from local teams; (v)  
275 study the incidence and causes of child fatalities and near fatalities in the commonwealth; (vi)  
276 analyze community, public and private agency involvement with the children and their families  
277 prior to and subsequent to fatalities or near fatalities; (vii) develop a protocol for the collection of  
278 data regarding fatalities and near fatalities and provide training to local teams on the protocol;  
279 (viii) develop and implement rules and procedures necessary for its own operation; and (ix)

280 provide the governor, the general court and the public with annual written reports, subject to  
281 confidentiality restrictions, which shall include, but not be limited to, the state team's findings  
282 and recommendations.

283 (c) There shall be a local child fatality review team in each of the 11 districts headed by a  
284 district attorney. Notwithstanding section 172 of chapter 6, members of a local team shall be  
285 subject to criminal offender record checks to be conducted by the district attorney. All members  
286 shall serve without compensation for their duties associated with membership on a local team.

287 Each local team shall be comprised of at least the following members: the district  
288 attorney of the county, who shall chair the local team; the chief medical examiner or a designee;  
289 the commissioner of children and families or a designee; a pediatrician with experience in  
290 diagnosing or treating child abuse and neglect, appointed by the state team; a local police officer  
291 from the municipality where a child fatality or near fatality occurred, appointed by the chief of  
292 police of that municipality; a state law enforcement officer, appointed by the colonel of state  
293 police; the chief justice of the juvenile division of the trial court or a designee; the director of the  
294 Massachusetts center for unexpected infant and child death, located at the Boston Medical  
295 Center, or a designee; a representative or representatives from the department of public health or  
296 the office of the child advocate; and any other person with expertise or information relevant to an  
297 individual case who may attend meetings, on an ad hoc basis, by agreement of the permanent  
298 members of each local team. Those other persons may include, but shall not be limited to, local  
299 or state law enforcement officers, hospital representatives, medical specialists or subspecialists,  
300 or designees of the commissioners of developmental services, mental health, youth services,  
301 education and early education and care.

302           The purpose of each local team shall be to decrease the incidence of preventable child  
303 fatalities and near fatalities by: (i) coordinating the collection of information on fatalities and  
304 near fatalities; (ii) promoting cooperation and coordination between agencies responding to  
305 fatalities and near fatalities and in providing services to family members; (iii) developing an  
306 understanding of the causes and incidence of child fatalities and near fatalities in the county; and  
307 (iv) advising the state team on changes in law, policy or practice which may affect child fatalities  
308 and near fatalities.

309           To achieve its purpose, each local team shall: (i) review, establish and implement model  
310 protocols from the state team; (ii) review, subject to the approval of the local district attorney, all  
311 individual fatalities and near fatalities in accordance with the established protocol; (iii) meet  
312 periodically, but at least 4 times per calendar year, to review the status of fatality and near  
313 fatality cases and recommend methods of improving coordination of services between member  
314 agencies; (iv) collect, maintain and provide confidential data as required by the state team; and  
315 (v) provide law enforcement or other agencies with information for the purposes of the  
316 protection of children.

317           At the request of the local district attorney, the local team shall be immediately provided  
318 with: (i) information and records relevant to the cause of the fatality or near fatality maintained  
319 by providers of medical or other care, treatment or services, including dental and mental health  
320 care; (ii) information and records relevant to the cause of the fatality or near fatality maintained  
321 by any state, county or local government agency including, but not limited to, birth certificates,  
322 medical examiner investigative data, parole and probation information records and law  
323 enforcement data post-disposition, except that certain law enforcement records may be exempted  
324 by the local district attorney; (iii) information and records of any provider of social services,



325 including the state department of children and families, relevant to the child or the child's family,  
326 that the local team deems relevant to the review; and (iv) demographic information relevant to  
327 the child and the child's immediate family, including, but not limited to, address, age, race,  
328 gender and economic status. The district attorney may enforce this paragraph by seeking an order  
329 of the superior court.

330 (d) Any privilege or restriction on disclosure established pursuant to chapter 66A, section  
331 70 of chapter 111, section 11 of chapter 111B, section 18 of chapter 111E, chapters 112, 123, or  
332 sections 20B, 20J or 20K of chapter 233 or any other law relating to confidential  
333 communications shall not prohibit the disclosure of this information to the chair of the state team  
334 or a local team. Any information considered to be confidential pursuant to the aforementioned  
335 statutes may be submitted for a team's review upon the determination of that team's chair that the  
336 review of this information is necessary. The chair shall ensure that no information submitted for  
337 a team's review is disseminated to parties outside the team. Under no circumstances shall any  
338 member of a team violate the confidentiality provisions set forth in the aforementioned statutes.

339 Except as necessary to carry out a team's purpose and duties, members of a team and  
340 persons attending a team meeting may not disclose any information relating to the team's  
341 business.

342 Team meetings shall be closed to the public. Information and records acquired by the  
343 state team or by a local team pursuant to this chapter shall be confidential, exempt from  
344 disclosure under chapter 66, and may only be disclosed as necessary to carry out a team's duties  
345 and purposes.

346 Statistical compilations of data which do not contain any information that would permit  
347 the identification of any person may be disclosed to the public.

348 (e) Members of a team, persons attending a team meeting and persons who present  
349 information to a team may not be questioned in any civil or criminal proceeding regarding  
350 information presented in or opinions formed as a result of a team meeting.

351 (f) Information, documents and records of the state team or of a local team shall not be  
352 subject to subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding;  
353 provided, however, that information, documents and records otherwise available from any other  
354 source shall not be immune from subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence through  
355 these sources solely because they were presented during proceedings of a team or are maintained  
356 by a team.

357 (g) Nothing in this section shall limit the powers and duties of the child advocate or  
358 district attorneys.

359 SECTION 15. Section 2A of chapter 38 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
360 Official Edition, is hereby repealed.

361 SECTION 16. Section 15A of chapter 75 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
362 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place  
363 thereof the following paragraph:-

364 The center shall maintain the confidentiality of any individual whose personal  
365 information is made available to the center pursuant to section 7 of chapter 15D, but compliance

366 with individual confidentiality shall not prevent the publication of aggregated research  
367 information or case studies wherein personal identifiers have been removed.

368 SECTION 17. Subsection (f) of section 23 of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as so  
369 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the sixth sentence.

370 SECTION 18. Subsection (h) of said section 23 of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is  
371 hereby further amended by striking out the second paragraph.

372 SECTION 19. Said section 23 of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
373 adding the following subsection:-

374 (j) The commissioner shall establish and periodically update an internal review policy to  
375 require a review prior to a determination to reunify a child. Members of the review shall include,  
376 but not be limited to: (i) the social worker with direct case responsibility for the child or young  
377 adult whose case is being reviewed; (ii) the immediate supervisor of the social worker; (iii)  
378 counsel from the area office; and (iv) the area director. The review shall include, but not be  
379 limited to, the child's foster care review cases and collateral checks consistent with the ongoing  
380 casework and documentation policy. The outcome of the review and all accompanying notes and  
381 files shall be included in the case records of the child.

382 SECTION 20. Said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting  
383 after section 23B the following section:-

384 Section 23C. (a) The department shall promulgate a policy governing its relationship  
385 with, and responsibilities to, foster parents. This policy shall be collectively known as the foster  
386 parents' bill of rights and shall be provided by the department and private agencies contracted by

387 the department to provide foster care to all prospective foster and pre-adoptive parents during the  
388 application process and to kinship foster parents during the placement process. All current foster,  
389 pre-adoptive and kinship parents shall be provided with a copy of the foster parents' bill of  
390 rights.

391 (b) The foster parents' bill of rights shall include, but shall not be limited to, the  
392 following:

393 (1) The department shall not discriminate against a foster parent on the basis of religion,  
394 race, ethnicity, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national  
395 origin, age or physical ability.

396 (2) The department shall keep information regarding the foster parent and household  
397 members confidential, except as required by law.

398 (3) The department shall develop and provide a standardized pre-service training for  
399 foster parents, including, but not limited to (i) communication; (ii) positive discipline; (iii) child  
400 guidance; (iv) building self-esteem; and (v) the reasonable and prudent parent standard. The  
401 department shall update foster parents of any relevant changes in policies and procedures of the  
402 department and any changes in applicable law.

403 (4) To the greatest extent possible, as allowable under state and federal law, the  
404 department shall, prior to placement, provide a foster parent with information about the child,  
405 including, but not limited to: (i) the physical and behavioral health history of the child; (ii) the  
406 education needs of the child; and (iii) information about the daily routine of the child. The  
407 department shall communicate all such additional information that becomes known during the  
408 time of placement in a timely fashion.

409 (5) The department shall provide a foster parent with a copy of the department action  
410 plan regarding the child in the foster parent's home, other than those parts of the plan containing  
411 information that is confidential to a parent under federal or state law, and shall afford a foster  
412 parent an opportunity to discuss the plan with the social worker. The department shall provide  
413 reasonable notification of any changes to that plan.

414 (6) A foster parent may decline placement of a child in their home. A foster parent may  
415 request the removal of a child from their home.

416 (7) The department shall inform a foster parent of the range and frequency of payments  
417 the foster parent may be eligible to receive, including, but not limited to, daily stipends and  
418 quarterly clothing allowances, birthday and holiday payments. The department shall notify a  
419 foster parent in writing of any delays in payments as soon as the delay becomes known to the  
420 department.

421 (8) The department shall inform a foster parent of other available financial supports and  
422 services including, but not limited to, parents and children together rates, reimbursements for  
423 one-time costs, child care and respite. The department shall also provide the criteria for accessing  
424 financial supports and services.

425 (9) The department shall consult with the foster parent in the planning of supervised or  
426 unsupervised visitation.

427 (10) The department shall provide a foster parent no less than 10 days of paid respite care  
428 per year.

429 (11) The department shall maintain a 24-hour emergency hotline in case of emergency  
430 when the department offices are closed.

431 (12) The department shall provide adequate notice to a foster parent of foster care  
432 reviews and appropriate meetings regarding the child in the foster parent's home, and may  
433 provide an opportunity for foster parents to actively participate in these meetings, except as to  
434 those parts of foster care reviews or meetings that involve information that is confidential as to a  
435 parent under federal or state law.

436 (13) The department shall, to the extent reasonably possible, provide adequate notice to a  
437 foster parent when a child is to be removed from their home.

438 (14) The department shall provide adequate notice to a foster parent of all court hearings,  
439 consistent with federal and state statute, regarding the child in their home. A foster parent who is  
440 unable to attend a court hearing may provide a written statement to the department prior to the  
441 hearing.

442 (15) The department shall provide foster parents with information about the process and  
443 time lines for investigation and resolution of a report made against the foster parent pursuant to  
444 section 51A of chapter 119 and the rights of the foster parent to receive and provide information  
445 during the review or investigation and the potential consequences of a supported complaint,  
446 review or an investigation.

447 (16) The department may advocate for a non-kin foster parent to be considered as the first  
448 choice as an adoptive parent or legal guardian for a child whose goal has been changed to  
449 adoption or guardianship if no kin is available.

450 (17) Prior to a child leaving a foster home, the department may provide the opportunity  
451 for the foster parent to provide notes that may assist future foster parents in the care or daily  
452 routine of the child. The department may include this information in the case file of the child and  
453 may make it accessible, upon request, to future foster parents, consistent with applicable state  
454 and federal privacy laws.

455 (18) Upon request of a foster parent, the department shall review department decisions  
456 relating to the foster child while in the care of the foster parent, including, but not limited to,  
457 grievance or fair hearing requests filed by the foster parent in compliance with the department's  
458 regulations. The department shall provide information on these procedures and timelines to  
459 foster parents upon approval as a foster parent.

460 (19) The department shall not retaliate against foster parents for issuing or filing a  
461 complaint with the commissioner, the department's office of the ombudsman or the office of the  
462 child advocate.

463 SECTION 21. Section 29 of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
464 inserting after the second paragraph the following 2 paragraphs:-

465 No later than 5 business days before any non-emergency change in a child's or a young  
466 adult's placement or any non-emergency hospitalization, and no later than 1 business day after  
467 any emergency change in a child's or a young adult's placement or any emergency  
468 hospitalization, the department shall provide notice of the change in placement or hospitalization  
469 to the child's or the young adult's attorney.

470 If the department receives a report pursuant to section 51A, the department shall notify  
471 the attorney of the child involved in the reported incident, or the attorney of the young adult

472 involved in the reported incident, not later than 1 business day following the department’s receipt  
473 of the report.

474 SECTION 22. Section 39½ of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
475 striking out the eighth paragraph.

476 SECTION 23. Section 51D of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
477 striking out the eighth paragraph.

478 SECTION 24. Section 51E of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
479 striking out, in line 2, the words “sections 51A to 51D” and inserting place thereof the following  
480 words:- sections 51A to 51C.

481 SECTION 25. Section 5E of chapter 210 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
482 repealed.

483 SECTION 26. Chapter 47 of the acts of 2017 is hereby amended by striking out section  
484 128 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

485 Section 128. There shall be a task force on child welfare data reporting. The task force  
486 shall develop basic data measures, progress measures and key outcome measures to inform the  
487 general court and the public on the status and demographics of the caseload of the department of  
488 children and families and the department’s progress in achieving child welfare goals, including  
489 safety, permanency and well-being.

490 The task force shall develop criteria for measuring outcomes for children and families in  
491 the key child welfare domains of safety, permanency and well-being including, but not limited  
492 to, outcomes relative to: (i) protecting children from abuse and neglect; (ii) safely maintaining



493 children in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate; (iii) achieving stability and  
494 permanency for children in their living situations; (iv) preserving the continuity of family  
495 relationships; (v) enhancing the capacity of families to provide for the needs of children; (vi)  
496 ensuring that children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs; (vii) ensuring  
497 that children receive the services necessary to meet their physical and mental health needs; and  
498 (viii) achieving permanency and opportunity for young adults.

499         The task force shall make recommendations to: (i) ensure that the department of children  
500 and families' reports and profiles under section 3A of chapter 18B of the General Laws include  
501 data measures that are clearly defined and provided with adequate context to convey the meaning  
502 of reported data and the department's understanding of the meaning of trends that may appear in  
503 that data; (ii) eliminate reports that are no longer necessary; (iii) revise existing reports; and (iv)  
504 ensure that reports are timely submitted and made available electronically in accordance with the  
505 public records law.

506         The task force shall also make recommendations relative to: (i) the continued  
507 development of the reports and profiles under said section 3A of said chapter 18B; (ii) the  
508 resources required of the department to develop and produce those reports and profiles; (iii)  
509 priorities for the department's public reporting requirements as they relate to addressing: (A)  
510 questions underlying legislative reporting requirements relative to foster care review, residential  
511 care, services for young adults over the age of 18, educational and placement stability, kinship  
512 guardianship subsidies and any other reporting requirements not included in the reports and  
513 profiles under said section 3A of said chapter 18B; (B) questions that the department is currently  
514 unable to address with existing departmental data including, but not limited to, families with  
515 multiple siblings in the department's care; (C) questions concerning the department's delivery of

516 services including, but not limited to, support and stabilization and the effectiveness of such  
517 services; (D) questions concerning the department's outcomes and the development of accurate  
518 benchmarks to measure those outcomes; and (E) racial disproportionality at decision points in  
519 the departmental process by area office.

520           The task force shall be comprised of the following persons or their designees: the child  
521 advocate, who shall serve as co-chair; the commissioner of children and families, who shall serve  
522 as co-chair; the chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities;  
523 the chief counsel of the committee for public counsel services of the public defender agency of  
524 Massachusetts; the executive director of the Children's League of Massachusetts, Inc.; the  
525 executive director of a legal services program to be appointed by the governor; 1 person with  
526 expertise in child welfare data and outcome measures to be appointed by the child advocate; and  
527 1 person with expertise in the department of children and families' information technology, data  
528 collection and reporting systems to be appointed by the commissioner of children and families.  
529 The task force shall consult with other individuals with relevant expertise, including academics,  
530 researchers and service providers, as needed. The task force shall consult with the heads of  
531 agencies that address issues that directly affect the child welfare caseload or outcomes including,  
532 but not limited to, substance use disorders, domestic violence, mental health and homelessness to  
533 determine how best to review and report on agency data relevant to child welfare outcomes.

534           The work of the task force in developing future reports shall not absolve the department  
535 of children and families from any statutorily required report or request.

536           The task force shall meet at least quarterly. Annually, not later than January 31, the task  
537 force shall submit its recommendations to the clerks of the house of representatives and the

538 senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children,  
539 families and persons with disabilities.

540 SECTION 27. Item 4800-0015 of section 2 of chapter 41 of the acts of 2019 is hereby  
541 amended by striking out the following words:- provided further, that on December 27, 2019, and  
542 March 27, 2020, the department shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and  
543 means and the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities on: (i) the fair  
544 hearing requests filed in fiscal year 2020, using non-identifying information: to state, for each  
545 hearing request: (a) the subject matter of the appeal; (b) the number of days between the hearing  
546 request and the first day of the hearing; (c) the number of days between the first day of the  
547 hearing and the hearing officer's decision; (d) the number of days between the hearing officer's  
548 decision and the agency's final decision; (e) the number of days of continuance granted at the  
549 appellant's request; (f) the number of days of continuance granted at the request of the  
550 department of children and families or the hearing officer's request, specifying which party made  
551 the request; and (g) whether the department's decision that was the subject of the appeal was  
552 affirmed or reversed; and (ii) the fair hearing requests filed before fiscal year 2020, which are  
553 pending for more than 180 days, stating the number of those cases, how many of those cases  
554 have been heard but not decided and how many have been decided by the hearing officer but not  
555 yet issued as a final agency decision; provided further, that the department shall maintain and  
556 make available to the public, during regular business hours, a record of its fair hearings, with  
557 identifying information removed, including for each hearing request: the date of the request, the  
558 date of the hearing decision, the decision rendered by the hearing officer and the final decision  
559 rendered upon the commissioner's review; provided further, that the department shall make  
560 redacted copies of fair hearing decisions available within 30 days of a written request; provided

561 further, that the department shall not make available any information in violation of federal  
562 privacy regulations; provided further, that not later than February 28, 2020, the department shall  
563 submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and joint committee on  
564 children, families and persons with disabilities that shall include, but not be limited to, the: (1)  
565 number of medical and psychiatric personnel and their level of training currently employed by or  
566 under contract with the department; (2) number of foster care reviews conducted by the  
567 department and the average length of time in which each review is completed; (3) the number of  
568 social workers and supervisors who have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in social work;  
569 (4) the total number of social workers and the total number of social workers holding licensure,  
570 by level; (5) number of the department's contracts reviewed by the state auditor and the number  
571 of corrective action plans issued; and (6) number of corrective action plans entered into by the  
572 department; provided further, that on the first business day of each quarter, the department shall  
573 file a report with the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee  
574 on children, families and persons with disabilities on the caseload of the department; provided  
575 further, that the report shall include, but not be limited to: (A) the caseloads of residential  
576 placements, congregate care, foster care, therapeutic foster care, adoption, guardianship, 51A  
577 reports, substantiated 51A reports, the number of children who die in the care and custody of the  
578 department, the number of children currently eligible for supportive child care, the number of  
579 children presently receiving supportive child care and the number of medical and psychiatric  
580 consultation requests made by the department's social workers; (B) the number of approved  
581 foster care placements; (C) the number of children in psychiatric hospitals and community-based  
582 acute treatment programs who remain hospitalized beyond their medically-necessary stay while  
583 awaiting placement and the number of days each case remains in placement beyond that which is

584 medically necessary; (D) the number of children under the department of children and families’  
585 care and custody who are being served in medical or psychiatric care provided through other  
586 publicly-funded sources; (E) the number of children served by supervised visitation centers and  
587 the number of those children who are reunified with their families; (F) the total number of  
588 children served, their ages, the number of children served in each service plan, the number of  
589 children in out-of-home placements and the number of placements each child has had before  
590 receiving an out-of-home placement; (G) for each area office, the number of kinship  
591 guardianship subsidies provided in the quarters covered by the report and the number of kinship  
592 guardianship subsidies provided in that quarter for which federal reimbursement was received;  
593 (H) for each area office, the total spending on services other than case management services  
594 provided to families to keep a child with the child’s parents or reunifying the child with the  
595 child’s parents, spending by the type of service including, but not limited to, the number of  
596 children and a breakdown of spending for respite care, intensive in-home services, client  
597 financial assistance and flexible funding, community-based after-school social and recreation  
598 program services, family navigation services and parent aide services and the unduplicated  
599 number of families that receive the services; (I) for each area office, the total number of families  
600 residing in shelters paid for by the department, a list of where the families are sheltered, the total  
601 cost and average cost per family of those shelters and a description of how the department  
602 determines who qualifies or does not qualify for a shelter; (J) for each area office, the number of  
603 requests for voluntary services broken down by type of service requested, whether the request  
604 was approved or denied, the number of families that were denied voluntary services and received  
605 a 51A report, the reasons for denying the service and what, if any, referrals were made for  
606 services by other agencies or entities; (K) the number of families receiving multiple 51A reports

607 within a 10-month period, the number of cases reopened within 6 months of being closed and the  
608 number of children who return home and then reenter an out-of-home placement within 6  
609 months; (L) the number of children and families served by the family resource centers by area;  
610 and (M) the number of children within the care and custody of the department whose  
611 whereabouts are unknown; provided further, that not later than November 1, 2019, the  
612 department shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the  
613 joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities that details any changes to  
614 rules, regulations or guidelines established by the department in the previous fiscal year to carry  
615 out its duties under chapter 119 of the General Laws including, but not limited to: (I) criteria  
616 used to determine whether a child has been abused or neglected; (II) guidelines for removal of a  
617 child from the home; and (III) standards to determine what reasonable efforts are being made to  
618 keep a child in the home; provided further, that on a monthly basis, the department of children  
619 and families shall provide the caseload forecasting office with data on children receiving services  
620 and other pertinent data related to items 4800-0038 and 4800-0041 that is requested by the  
621 office; provided further, that the report shall also contain the number of children and families  
622 served by the family resource centers by area and an evaluation of the services provided and their  
623 effectiveness.

624 SECTION 28. The department of children and families shall submit a special report  
625 analyzing the effect of virtual and video technology on services during the outbreak of the 2019  
626 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i)  
627 the types of services offered via virtual and video technology; (ii) the number of people using  
628 virtual and video technology for each type of service; (iii) the number of people using virtual and  
629 video technology for each category of person, including, but not limited to, department staff,

630 children, parents, foster parents and kinship care guardians; (iv) the number of people opting not  
631 to use virtual and video technology for each type of service, and, if known, the reasons why; (v)  
632 the number of people opting not to use virtual and video technology for each category of person,  
633 including, but not limited to, department staff, children, parents, foster parents and kinship care  
634 guardians; and (vi) best practices for using virtual and video technology in future agency  
635 operations. The report shall be for services offered for the duration of the state of emergency  
636 established by executive order 591.

637           The department shall file its report, including any recommendations, with the house and  
638 senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children, families and persons  
639 with disabilities not later than 12 months after the end of the state of emergency established by  
640 executive order 591.

641           SECTION 29. School districts shall report to the department of elementary and secondary  
642 education on the number of students who did not participate in any form of remote learning that  
643 went into effect due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19,  
644 from March 16, 2020 through the remainder of the 2020 school year, and the number of families  
645 the district did not have any contact with to address such participation; provided further, reports  
646 shall include, but not be limited to, children with active cases at the department of children and  
647 families; provided further, reports shall include methods used to communicate with families and  
648 engage students, including attempts to communicate with families with active cases at the  
649 department of children and families and efforts that were made by the school district to ensure  
650 ongoing engagement and involvement with the department of children in families. The report  
651 shall not include the identities of students or families, but shall include student subgroups and  
652 categories.

653 Not later than August 21, 2020, the department shall share any findings and analysis of  
654 district reporting on remote learning efforts with the clerks of the house of representatives and  
655 the senate and the joint committee on education and shall have developed a statewide plan to  
656 ensure effective and ongoing engagement relative to remote learning, including best practices for  
657 engaging the most vulnerable and at-risk students and their families, including, but not limited  
658 to: (i) children with active cases at the department of children and families; (ii) students and  
659 families with limited English proficiency; (iii) students with limited access to remote learning;  
660 (iv) students receiving special education services; and (v) students residing in school districts in  
661 communities that were disproportionately impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19.

662 SECTION 30. The department of children and families shall report on its efforts to  
663 support and reform the foster care system in the commonwealth during the outbreak of the 2019  
664 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, including, but not limited to, protocols and  
665 practices to provide: (i) timely information sharing with foster families, including, but not  
666 limited to, relevant medical history; (ii) tracking and surveying of foster care families, including  
667 those foster care families who leave the program; (iii) foster care families' access to supports,  
668 including, but not limited to, mental health supports; (iv) consistent and cohesive policies across  
669 the commonwealth's department of children and families offices, including, but not limited to,  
670 how information is communicated with staff and foster care families; (v) increased access to care  
671 in underserved regions; and (vi) access to timely information relative to the health and well-  
672 being of children in the department's custody, including any children who have died from abuse  
673 or neglect.



674           The department shall file its report, including any recommendations, with the house and  
675 senate committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on children, families and persons  
676 with disabilities not later than August 31, 2020.

677           SECTION 31. The department of children and families shall report monthly, during the  
678 outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, and the governor’s March  
679 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency and until 60 days after the termination of the state  
680 of emergency, to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee  
681 on children, families and persons with disabilities on changes in child abuse and neglect reports  
682 made to the department pursuant to section 51A of chapter 119 of the General Laws. The report  
683 shall include, but not be limited to, the following information: (i) the number of reports and  
684 substantiated reports made that month to the department pursuant to said section 51A of said  
685 chapter 119 and comparative data on the number of reports made to the department for the same  
686 time period in 2019; (ii) the number of reports and substantiated reports that were filed by  
687 mandated reporters, including the number of reports filed by each category of mandated reporter,  
688 and the number of reports and substantiated reports that were filed by non-mandated reporters;  
689 (iii) methods used by the department to enhance screening for child abuse and neglect cases  
690 during the outbreak of COVID-19, including outreach to mandated reporters; (iv) strategies  
691 taken by the department to address cases of reported abuse and neglect during the outbreak of  
692 COVID-19, and outcomes related to said strategies; and (v) any changes in department policies  
693 related to the investigation and processing of reports made to the department pursuant to said  
694 section 51A of said chapter 119 during the outbreak of COVID-19.

695           SECTION 32. The department of children and families shall develop and implement a  
696 public information campaign to increase awareness of child abuse and neglect during the

697 outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. The campaign shall include,  
698 but not be limited to: (i) educating mandated reporters on identifying child abuse and neglect, for  
699 different ages, including infants, toddlers, elementary-age and teenagers, in instances where  
700 remote communication is being utilized; (ii) performing targeted outreach to appropriate  
701 populations who may lack information on how to report child abuse and neglect; and (iii)  
702 promoting the use of the department’s child-at-risk hotline, including establishing a website,  
703 translated into multiple languages, clearly identifying how to report child abuse and neglect.

704 SECTION 33. The commissioner of children and families shall review the department of  
705 children and families’ policies, procedures and rules to identify additional and specific protocols  
706 that can be modified or established for case transfers involving multiple social workers or area  
707 offices to ensure the efficient and accurate transfer of information and care for the child. The  
708 commissioner shall consult with the child advocate during this review. Not later than November  
709 15, 2020, the commissioner shall submit a report to the house of representatives and senate  
710 clerks, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children,  
711 families and persons with disabilities that shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the  
712 commissioner’s findings of the review, including an evaluation of how policies are implemented  
713 in each area office and barriers to transferring information and cases between social workers or  
714 area offices; (ii) the number of cases transferred between area offices in fiscal year 2020; (iii) the  
715 number of cases transferred between social workers in fiscal year 2020; (iv) any actions the  
716 department has taken, or plans to take, to address barriers to transferring information and cases  
717 between social workers and area offices, including changes to policies and regulations; and (v)  
718 proposed legislation that may improve stability for children whose cases involve multiple social  
719 workers or area offices, if applicable.

720 SECTION 34. Section 3 shall take effect as of July 1, 2019.

721 SECTION 35. Section 27 shall take effect as of July 1, 2019.