

HB 1951 -- FOSTER CARE

SPONSOR: Gragg

This bill establishes provisions relating to the removal of a child from his or her home when a police officer, law enforcement official, or physician has reasonable cause to suspect the child is suffering from illness, injury, abuse, or neglect, or is in danger of such.

If a child is removed from the home for the first time due to suspicion of illness, injury, abuse, or neglect, or danger thereof, the child shall be placed in a foster home. The parent or guardian shall be given 12 months from the time of removal to complete a rehabilitation program or parental training, which shall be paid for by the State. If the program or training required of the parent is not completed, the child shall be placed into the custody of the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services and placed for adoption. If the required program or training is completed, however, the parent or guardian shall regain custody of his or her child, provided that biweekly supervised visits are conducted by the Children's Division for a period of 12 months following the reunification.

If a parent or guardian has regained custody of his or her child but the child is removed from the home for the second time, the child shall be placed into a foster home and the parent or guardian shall be given six months from the time of removal to complete any required rehabilitation program or parental training, which shall be paid for by the State. If the program or training is not completed in the provided time frame, the child shall be placed into the custody of the Children's Division and placed for adoption. If the program or training is completed in the provided time frame, the parent or guardian shall regain custody of his or her child again, provided that biweekly supervised visits are conducted by the Children's Division for a period of six months following the reunification.

If a parent or guardian has regained custody of his or her child for a second time but the child is removed from the home for a third time, the child shall be moved to a foster home and placed for adoption, and the parent or guardian shall relinquish his or her rights to that child to the State.