

## AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2175

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE KRUPA

Printer's No. 3305

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 4, by inserting after "Advocate"  
2 and the Child Advocate Advisory Board

3 Amend Bill, page 1, by inserting between lines 15 and 16  
4 "Advisory board." The Child Advocate Advisory Board  
5 established under section 702-A.

6 Amend Bill, page 2, lines 1 through 19, by striking out all  
7 of said lines and inserting

8 "Child serving program." A program, entity or organization  
9 operating within this Commonwealth that receives State funding  
10 to provide services to children or families.

11 Amend Bill, page 3, lines 1 and 2, by striking out all of  
12 said lines

13 Amend Bill, page 3, lines 11 through 13, by striking out all  
14 of lines 11 and 12 and "IMPARTIALLY ADVOCATE FOR AND ADVANCE" in  
15 line 13 and inserting

16 (a) Establishment.--

17 (1) The Office of Child Advocate is established within  
18 the department to analyze issues brought before the office  
19 for the purpose of advocating and advancing

20 Amend Bill, page 3, by inserting between lines 17 and 18

21 (2) The Child Advocate Advisory Board is established  
22 within the office to provide advice and counsel to the office  
23 and the Child Advocate. The advisory board shall be comprised  
24 of the following members:

25 (i) The Child Advocate, who shall act as chair of  
26 the advisory board.

27 (ii) The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Children,  
28 Youth and Families.

29 (iii) The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Medical  
30 Assistance Programs.

- 1           (iv) The Deputy Secretary of the Office of  
2           Developmental Programs.  
3           (v) The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Child  
4           Development and Early Learning.  
5           (vi) A representative of the Office of Victim  
6           Advocate.  
7           (vii) A representative of the Department of Health.  
8           (viii) A member of the designated disability rights  
9           advocacy entity for this Commonwealth.  
10           (ix) A county commissioner appointed by the County  
11           Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.  
12           (x) A representative of the Pennsylvania Children  
13           and Youth Administrators.  
14           (xi) A representative of the Pennsylvania of  
15           Children, Youth and Family Services.  
16           (xii) A representative of an organization that  
17           provides mental health treatment services for youth  
18           appointed by the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth  
19           and Family Services.  
20           (xiii) A representative of the Pennsylvania District  
21           Attorneys Association.  
22           (xiv) A representative from an organization engaged  
23           in child advocacy.  
24           (xv) An attorney who regularly acts as a guardian ad  
25           litem in dependency proceedings appointed by the Chief  
26           Justice of the Supreme Court.  
27           (xvi) At least two members of the community with  
28           lived experience relative to child welfare, juvenile  
29           delinquency or the mental health treatment of children.  
30           (xvii) A juvenile court or family court judge  
31           appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.  
32           (xviii) A representative of the Office of Children  
33           and Families in the Courts.  
34           (xix) A representative of the Juvenile Court Judges'  
35           Commission.

36           Amend Bill, page 6, line 2, by inserting after "duties"  
37           of Child Advocate and advisory board

38           Amend Bill, page 6, line 3, by inserting before "The"  
39           (a) Duties of Child Advocate.--

40           Amend Bill, page 6, line 3, by striking out "OFFICE" and  
41           inserting

42           Child Advocate

43           Amend Bill, page 6, lines 5 through 30; page 7, lines 1  
44           through 30; page 8, lines 1 through 6; by striking out all of

1 said lines on said pages and inserting

2 (1) Study and evaluate the following:

3 (i) Access to services for youth in child serving  
4 programs.

5 (ii) Availability of services for youth in need of  
6 services.

7 (iii) Duplication of services for youth accessing  
8 programs.

9 (iv) Funding of services available for youth in  
10 child serving programs.

11 (v) Barriers to service for youth in need of child  
12 serving programs.

13 (vi) Communication and cooperation by agencies  
14 concerning youth in child serving programs.

15 (vii) Implementation of State programs or laws  
16 concerning vulnerable youth.

17 (viii) Data from executive agencies relevant to  
18 evaluating progress, targeting efforts and demonstrating  
19 outcomes.

20 (2) Prepare agendas, deadlines and meeting schedules for  
21 the advisory board, convene and attend all meetings of the  
22 advisory board and assist the advisory board with  
23 implementing the advisory board's duties.

24 (3) Serve as a resource to connect children and families  
25 with child serving programs.

26 (4) Consult with executive agencies, county agencies and  
27 individuals with lived experience on child serving programs.

28 (5) Promote information sharing concerning child serving  
29 programs across this Commonwealth.

30 (6) Identify and promote best practices, policies and  
31 programs for child serving programs.

32 (7) Cooperate with other child-focused commissions, the  
33 unified judicial system, executive agencies, stakeholders and  
34 members of the community for the purposes of this article.

35 (8) Coordinate educational, informational and other  
36 programs for public awareness and education concerning child  
37 maltreatment and the role of the community in supporting and  
38 strengthening families and keeping children safe.

39 (9) Promote and advocate for the health, safety and  
40 well-being of children before the General Assembly.

41 (10) Receive and review complaints from the public,  
42 including receiving complaints from a child, regarding the  
43 processes or procedures of child serving programs. The Child  
44 Advocate shall ensure that referrals are made to the  
45 appropriate executive agencies and county agencies regarding  
46 complaints received by the office. The Child Advocate shall  
47 observe trends or themes regarding complaints and address the  
48 trends or themes with the advisory board.

49 Amend Bill, page 8, line 7, by striking out "(10)" and

1 inserting

2 (11)

3 Amend Bill, page 8, lines 14 through 21, by striking out all  
4 of lines 14 through 20 and "(13)" in line 21 and inserting

5 (12)

6 Amend Bill, page 8, lines 21 and 22, by striking out "AND  
7 OTHER EXECUTIVE AGENCY AND COUNTY AGENCY OFFICIALS"

8 Amend Bill, page 8, line 22, by inserting after "and" where  
9 it occurs the second time

10 the advisory board to

11 Amend Bill, page 8, line 24, by striking out "with" and  
12 inserting

13 and suggest

14 Amend Bill, page 8, lines 25 through 30, by striking out all  
15 of lines 25 through 29 and "(15)" in line 30 and inserting

16 (13)

17 Amend Bill, page 9, line 1, by striking out the comma after  
18 "agencies" and inserting

19 and

20 Amend Bill, page 9, line 2, by striking out "HEALTH, SAFETY  
21 AND WELL-BEING" and inserting

22 servicing

23 Amend Bill, page 9, line 4, by striking out "health, safety  
24 and well-being" and inserting

25 servicing

26 Amend Bill, page 9, lines 6 through 11, by striking out all  
27 of lines 6 through 10 and "(17)" in line 11 and inserting

28 (14)

29 Amend Bill, page 9, lines 15 and 16, by striking out "health,  
30 safety and well-being programs in the Commonwealth" and

1 inserting

2     serving programs

3 Amend Bill, page 9, lines 17 through 28, by striking out all  
4 of said lines and inserting

5     (15) Consult with executive agencies and provide  
6 recommendations on regulations, licensure, financing or any  
7 other responsibilities of the executive agencies to improve  
8 the safety of and promote better outcomes for children and  
9 families receiving services in child serving programs in this  
10 Commonwealth.

11     (16) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, serve  
12 as a voting member of the Children's Trust Fund Board.

13     (17) Collaborate with executive agencies and local  
14 government, including the Office of Victim Advocate,  
15 regarding the coordination of services to children who are  
16 victims of abuse.

17 Amend Bill, page 9, line 29, by striking out "(20)" and  
18 inserting

19     (18)

20 Amend Bill, page 9, line 29, by striking out ", 2024, and  
21 June 30 each year thereafter" and inserting

22     of each year

23 Amend Bill, page 10, line 13, by striking out "type of  
24 matters handled" and inserting

25     trends and challenges identified

26 Amend Bill, page 10, lines 17 and 18, by striking out  
27 "services in child health, safety and well-being programs" and  
28 inserting

29     or in need of services from child serving programs

30 Amend Bill, page 10, lines 19 through 23, by striking out all  
31 of said lines and inserting

32     (iii) Recommendations regarding regulatory or  
33 procedural improvements that could be made to improve the  
34 services of child serving programs.

35     (iv) A summary of the agendas and discussion of  
36 advisory board meetings, action plans identified and  
37 goals of the advisory board.

1 (v) Topics of agreement and disagreements between  
2 the advisory board and the Child Advocate.

3 Amend Bill, page 10, line 24, by striking out "(iv)" and  
4 inserting

5 (vi)

6 Amend Bill, page 10, by inserting between lines 25 and 26

7 (b) Duties of advisory board.--The advisory board shall  
8 convene no less than four times per year to review trends and  
9 themes identified by the Child Advocate and discuss action plans  
10 for addressing identified needs. The attendance of three-fourths  
11 of the members of the advisory board shall be required to vote.  
12 Members of the advisory board shall vote in person and not by  
13 proxy. Before the completion of an annual report of the Child  
14 Advocate under subsection (a)(18), the advisory board shall  
15 discuss the proposed conclusions or recommendations in the  
16 report and detail the advisory board's concurrence or  
17 disagreement with the conclusions or recommendations. If there  
18 is a disagreement within the advisory board, the Child Advocate  
19 shall specify the disagreement in the report, including an  
20 explanation for the disagreement. For each meeting of the  
21 advisory board, the Child Advocate shall keep a record of  
22 attendance of the members.

23 Amend Bill, page 10, line 29, by striking out "703-A" and  
24 inserting

25 703-A(a)

26 Amend Bill, page 11, lines 6 and 7, by striking out "under a  
27 child health, safety and welfare program" and inserting

28 regarding a child serving program

29 Amend Bill, page 11, line 8, by striking out "as follows" and  
30 inserting

31 in accordance with the following

32 Amend Bill, page 11, line 10, by striking out "furnish" and  
33 inserting

34 make available for review

35 Amend Bill, page 11, line 24, by striking out "furnished" and  
36 inserting

37 made available for review

1 Amend Bill, page 11, by inserting between lines 29 and 30

2 (4) The Child Advocate shall comply with the expunction  
3 of a child welfare record to the extent the Office of  
4 Children, Youth and Families is required to comply with the  
5 expunction in accordance with the laws of this Commonwealth.  
6 The Office of Children, Youth and Families shall notify the  
7 office when a child welfare record has been expunged.