



HOUSE BILL 669: Juvenile Law Changes/Abuse/Neglect/Dependency

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee: House Judiciary III	Date: April 29, 2015
Introduced by: Rep. Stevens	Prepared by: Janice Paul
Analysis of: Second Edition	Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: *House Bill 669 would make various changes to the juvenile laws pertaining to abuse, neglect, and dependency.*

CURRENT LAW: The provisions of the North Carolina Juvenile Code pertaining to abuse, neglect and dependency are contained in Subchapter I of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 669 comes as recommended by the Juvenile Code Revision Subcommittee of the North Carolina Court Improvement Project.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 adds definitions of "Department" and "Nonrelative kin" to G.S. 7B-101.

Section 2 of the bill addresses the standing of a foster parent to intervene in certain juvenile proceedings.

Section 3 authorizes a nonsecure custody order to be entered *ex parte*, and sets out certain notice provisions.

Section 4 of the bill requires each county's child welfare agency ("department") to make diligent efforts to notify relatives and custodial parents of the juvenile's siblings that the juvenile is in nonsecure custody, unless not in the juvenile's best interest.

Section 5 creates a new G.S. 7B-505.1, that clarifies the authority the department has to authorize specified medical and dental care when a juvenile is placed in nonsecure custody. This section addresses notice and consent requirements, and provides immunity to the department's director under specified circumstances.

Section 6 makes a conforming change.

Section 7 addresses the contents of a court order placing or continuing the placement of a juvenile in the nonsecure custody of the department.

Section 8 makes a conforming change.

Section 9 specifies the circumstances under which a department is not required to make reasonable efforts for reunification.

Section 10 modifies G.S. 7B-903, relating to dispositional alternatives available to the court.

Section 11 adds a new section to Article 9 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes that cross-references new G.S. 7B-505.1 (*see Section 5 of the PCS*), and allows a placement provider to provide or withhold permission to allow a juvenile to participate in normal childhood activities as specified.

Section 12 makes conforming changes relating to the contents of the dispositional order.

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Sections 13 and 14 add new sections to the Juvenile Code, requiring the court to adopt one or more of the specified concurrent permanent plans that the court finds to be in the best interest of the juvenile. This section also directs the court to make specified written findings relating to juveniles who 14 years of age and older concerning transition-to-adulthood planning, as required by federal law.

Section 15 makes conforming changes in G.S. 7B-1001 pertaining to appeal rights.

Section 16 codifies a "reasonable and prudent parenting standard," as required under the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

Section 17 makes conforming changes pertaining to review and permanency planning hearings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective October 1, 2015, and applies to actions filed or pending after that date.