



# HOUSE BILL 226: Consultation Requirements for DHHS.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations	<b>Date:</b>	March 14, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Rogers, Duane Hall, Destin Hall, John	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Augustus D. Willis
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 226 would require the Department of Health and Human Services to consult with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety prior to implementing any new Safety Planning Policy regarding Safety Assessments (DSS-5132) and the use of Temporary Parental Safety Agreements.

**BACKGROUND:** Temporary Parental Safety Agreements are voluntary, short-term agreements made between a parent and a county child welfare agency during the assessment phase of a case when there is a safety threat to a child in the child's home. When a Temporary Parental Safety Agreement requires the need to separate a child from the home and/or restrict a parent's access to their child, a temporary placement option for the child is identified during the time the necessary assessments are being completed. Temporary Parental Safety Agreements that include separation or restriction are allowed only during the assessment phase.

On December 9, 2016, the North Carolina Courts Commission heard a presentation on the Department of Health and Human Services' policy change related to Temporary Parental Safety Agreements, implementing a 45-day timeframe for all assessments absent court involvement. Since this meeting, the Department has agreed to temporarily suspend implementation of the policy changes, which were set to go into effect January 1, 2017. In its January 2017 report, the North Carolina Courts Commission recommended this bill.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 226 would require the Department of Health and Human Services to consult with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety prior to implementing any new Safety Planning Policy regarding Safety Assessments (DSS-5132) and the use of Temporary Parental Safety Agreements.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act is effective when it becomes law.

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