



HOUSE BILL 611: Clarify Objective/Child Protective Services.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary IV	Date:	April 19, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Dobson, Bert Jones, Murphy, Earle	Prepared by:	Jeremy Ray
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H611-CSBH-5		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 611 would define the primary objective of protective services as protecting and providing for the safety and well-being of juveniles. It would also define and expand certain responsibilities for protective services, such as screening reports in accordance with instructions by the Department of Health and Human Services, and add counseling services for juveniles to better meet the needs of juveniles and to sustain the long-term care and safety of juveniles. The bill would make other technical and clarifying changes.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 7B-300 sets forth the responsibilities of the director of the department of social services in each county of the State to establish protective services for juveniles. It also sets forth the responsibilities for protective services which include:

- Screening of reports.
- Performance of an assessment using either a family assessment response or an investigative response.
- Casework.
- Other counseling services to parents, guardians, or other caretakers and the court to prevent abuse or neglect, to improve the quality of child care, to be more adequate parents, guardians, or caretakers, and to preserve and stabilize family life.

BILL ANALYSIS: Subsection (a) in Section 1 would add new language to define the primary objective of protective services is to protect juveniles and provide for the safety and well-being of juveniles.

Subsection (b) would reorganize and combine prior responsibilities of protective services found in G.S. 78-300, with additional responsibilities in a new separate subsection. Additional responsibilities would include:

- Screening of reports in accordance with instructions provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Counseling services now include juveniles in addition to parents, guardians and other caretakers. All counseling services would include two new objectives: (iv) to better meet the needs of the juveniles, and (vi) to sustain the long-term care and safety of juveniles.

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

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