



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

# SENATE BILL 708: CPS Intake Screening/PED Recommendations.

2019-2020 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Health Care. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	June 9, 2020
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Edwards, Krawiec, Burgin	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jennifer Bedford
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 708 would decrease inconsistencies between child protective services provided by county departments and State policy, as recommended by the Program Evaluation Division.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H1048, as introduced by Rep. Horn, which is currently in House Judiciary.]

### BACKGROUND:

The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee’s 2018–19 Work Plan directed the Program Evaluation Division to determine whether there are differences in how county departments of social services screen and assess allegations of maltreatment. The complete Program Evaluation Division report is available here:

[https://www.ncleg.net/PED/Reports/documents/CPS/CPS\\_Report.pdf](https://www.ncleg.net/PED/Reports/documents/CPS/CPS_Report.pdf)

### BILL ANALYSIS:

#### Consistent Intake Procedures

Section 1 would prohibit county departments of social services from expanding on State intake screening criteria for child protective services.

#### Rapid Consultation System

Section 2 would:

- Create a rapid consultation system to provide intake screening and assessment guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (Division) within 24 hours when requested by county departments.
- Direct the Division to implement the rapid consultation system by June 30, 2021, and report on the implementation to the General Assembly by December 31, 2021.

#### Training and Assessment

Section 3 would:

- Require the Division to assess county workers' and supervisors' understanding and implementation of State policy; and tailor and increase intake training.
- Direct the Division to implement the assessment and training requirements by December 31, 2020, and report on the requirements to the General Assembly by June 30, 2021.

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# Senate Bill 708

Page 2

## Revised Intake Form

Section 4 would:

- Direct the Division to revise the child protective services intake form, in consultation with an organization like the Children's Research Center, and recertify the form every five years.
- Require the Division to report on the revision process to the General Assembly every six months starting July 30, 2020, until revisions are complete.

## Evaluation and Monitoring

Section 5 would require the Division to:

- Evaluate county departments through program monitoring.
- Establish measurable benchmarks for county departments.
- Perform statistically valid sampling to monitor county programs' intake screening.
- Report program monitoring progress and quality improvement to the General Assembly annually from June 30, 2021 until December 31, 2024.

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