



HOUSE BILL 769: Foster Parents' Bill of Rights.

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

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Families, Children, and Aging Policy. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 10, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Willis, Stevens, Paré, Winslow	Prepared by:	Jessica Boney Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H769-CSBP-12		

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 769 would create a Bill of Rights recognizing the rights of foster parents.*

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS to House Bill 769 would create a new section title Foster parent's Bill of Rights in Article 1A of Chapter 131D of the General Statutes.

It would make findings regarding the importance of foster parents and the team of individuals working together to address the issues which lead to foster care.

The State would recognize the following rights of foster parents:

- To serve as a respected member of the child welfare team.
- To receive specified information about the responsibilities of foster parents and access to support services, including active participation in the decision-making process regarding the child.
- To be notified of any expenses eligible for reimbursement and to have timely allocation of resources.
- To receive notice of hearings and to be heard in court for review and permanency planning hearings.
- To receive information regarding the professionals working with the child.
- To provide input in court and during periodic review, and to be informed at least 15 days prior of periodic reviews of the juvenile case of the child by the Clerk of Court.
- To provide input to and seek support from the Division of Social Services (DSS), such as requesting a respite from placements.
- To have reasonable opportunities for consultation and consideration in the scheduling of meetings related to the child the foster parent is allowed or required to attend.
- To request a change in licensed workers and to be considered as prospective adoptive placement.
- To provide or withhold permission for the child to participate in normal childhood activities without prior approval of county DSS and in accordance with a reasonable and prudent parent standard.
- To request a shared parenting agreement and that contact information be kept confidential when safety concerns are present.

A violation of the Bill of Rights would not create a cause of action against any State or other entity providing foster case, nor would anything in the Bill of Rights override existing law or rule.

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House PCS 769

Page 2

EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS would be effective when it becomes law.