



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

SENATE BILL 693: Expedite Child Safety and Permanency.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date: May 10, 2021
Introduced by: Sens. Jarvis, Krawiec, Edwards	Prepared by: Jennifer H. Bedford
Analysis of: Second Edition	Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 693 would make various amendments to the Juvenile Code regarding abuse, neglect, and dependency laws.

BILL ANALYSIS:

PART I. CHILD WELFARE REFORM

Part 1 would:

- Make changes to conform to drafting conventions.
- Define "Relative".
- Authorize legislators and joint oversight committees to request access to confidential records related to complaints of abuse and neglect complaints maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services or county department of social services (DSS).
- Create a Class 1 misdemeanor for violation of the new law.
- Direct DSS to identify and notify adult relatives of a juvenile with legal custody of the juvenile's sibling, that the juvenile is in nonsecure custody.
- Authorize the court to consider placement of a juvenile with nonrelative kin, if not with a relative.
- Permit DSS to recommend unsupervised visits as an option if the juvenile has been removed from the home in addition to returning custody.
- Add that the observation visits must occur within 30 days of the hearing at which DSS makes the recommendation.
- Provide that a positive drug test alone is insufficient to deny a parental visitation.
- Require the court to conduct a review or permanency planning hearing within 90 days of the initial disposition hearing, and every six months thereafter.
- Allow any person providing care for a juvenile the opportunity to address the court regarding the juvenile's well-being.
- Specify what written findings must be made by the court in order to remove a juvenile.

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- Require a review hearing if requested.
- Add the role of a foster parent in judicial proceedings training for foster parent licensure.
- Repeal GS 7B-905(b), which requires dispositional orders removing custody of the juvenile from the parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker to direct a review hearing to be held within 90 days of the dispositional hearing.
- Require written findings at permanency planning hearings if reunification is not the primary or secondary plan.

PART II. HUMAN TRAFFICKING NOTICE TO NON-CARETAKER CLARIFICATION

Part II would provide direction to the director of social services on how to provide with notification if a juvenile is the victim of human trafficking by someone other than the juvenile's parents or caretakers.

PART III. IMPLEMENTATION OF STATEWIDE CPS HOTLINE

Part III would:

- Direct DHHS to develop an operational plan to create and implement a statewide child protective services (CPS) hotline.
- Require the operation plan to be submitted to the GA by September 1, 2022.

PART IV. DEVELOP A PLAN TO INCREASE APPROPRIATE TREATMENT AND RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS

Part IV would:

- Direct DHHS to develop a plan to increase the supply of appropriate treatment and residential settings for minors in need of behavioral and mental health services..
- Require the operation plan to be submitted to the GA by October 1, 2022.

PART V. PROVIDE SAFE AND APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Part V would:

- Provide requirements for the care provided to a juvenile in the custody of a DSS, admitted to a hospital emergency department for mental health treatment.
- Require the Department of Health and Human Services' Rapid Response Team be notified if after a comprehensive clinical assessment, an appropriate placement or provider is not located for a juvenile.
- Create a hearing for judicial review if the new requirements for the care provided to a juvenile is not met.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, the bill is effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 693 has many of the provisions introduced in Senate Bill 518.