



Britton Hicks

*Bill Analysis*  
*Legislative Service Commission*

## **Am. Sub. H.B. 289**

126th General Assembly  
(As Passed by the House)

**Reps. White, Beatty, Barrett, Brown, S. Smith, Martin, Mason, Allen, DeBose, Domenick, C. Evans, Flowers, Harwood, Hughes, Key, J. McGregor, Oelslager, Schlichter, Skindell, D. Stewart, Strahorn, Yuko**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Establishes new duties for the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and family and children first county councils.
- Creates the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council Advisory Board.
- Allows certain members of the county and children first county councils to appoint a designee to the council to serve in their stead.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council duties**

Current law provides for the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council.<sup>1</sup> The stated purpose of the Cabinet Council is to help families seeking government services by streamlining and coordinating services for families seeking assistance for their children. The Cabinet Council must provide for all of the following (R.C. 121.37(A)):

(1) Reviews of service and treatment plans for children when such reviews are requested;

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<sup>1</sup> *The Council is composed of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Directors of Youth Services, Job and Family Services, Mental Health, Health, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and Budget and Management.*

(2) Assistance to meet the needs of children referred by the county family and children first councils, as the Cabinet Council determines is necessary;

(3) Monitoring and supervision of a system for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities or delays and their families.

Under the bill, the Cabinet Council additionally must develop and implement all of the following, in addition to meeting the requirements of current law (R.C. 121.37(A)(4)):

(1) An interagency process to select the indicators that will be used to measure progress toward increasing child well-being and update the indicators on an annual basis;<sup>2</sup>

(2) An interagency system to offer guidance and monitor progress toward increasing child well-being in the state and in each county;

(3) An annual plan that identifies state-level agency efforts taken to ensure progress toward increasing child well-being;

(4) An annual report on the status of efforts to increase child well-being to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly and made available to any other person on request.

### **Family and children first county council**

#### **Duties**

Current law requires each board of county commissioners to establish a county family and children first council. The county council must provide for all of the following (R.C. 121.37(B)(2)):

(1) Referrals to the Cabinet Council of those children for whom the county council cannot provide adequate services;

(2) Development and implementation of a process that annually evaluates and prioritizes services, fills service gaps where possible, and invents new approaches to achieve better results for families and children;

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<sup>2</sup> *The indicators must focus on expectant parents and newborns thriving; infants and toddlers thriving; children being ready for school; children and youth succeeding in school; youth choosing healthy behaviors; and youth successfully transitioning into adulthood.*

(3) Participation in the development of a countywide system for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities or delays and their families;

(4) Maintenance of an accountability system to monitor the county council's progress in achieving results for families and children;

(5) Establishment of a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving services within the county system.

Under the bill, in addition to meeting the requirements of current law,<sup>3</sup> county councils must develop and implement the following (R.C. 121.37(B)(3)):

(1) An interagency process to establish local indicators and monitor the county's progress toward increasing child well-being;

(2) An interagency process to identify local priorities to increase child well-being;<sup>4</sup>

(3) An annual plan that identifies the county's interagency efforts to increase child well-being;

(4) An annual report on the status of efforts by the county to increase child well-being to be submitted to the county's board of county commissioners and the Cabinet Council. This report must be made available to any other person on request.

### **Membership**

Current law requires several officials of county boards to serve on the county family and children first council. Generally, these officials include, but are not limited to, the Director of the Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services; the Health Commissioner of the Board of Health of each city and general health district in the county, or a designee of the Commissioner; the Director of the County Department of Job and Family Services; the Executive

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<sup>3</sup> *Certain duties provided in the bill may require the amendment of duties under current law. For example, current law requires the county council to maintain a system to monitor the county's progress in achieving results for families and children. The bill requires the county council to develop a process to monitor the county's progress toward increasing child well-being, which may overlap or duplicate what current law requires.*

<sup>4</sup> *The local priorities must focus on expectant parents and newborns thriving; infants and toddlers thriving; children being ready for school; children and youth succeeding in school; youth choosing healthy behaviors; and youth successfully transitioning into adulthood and must take into account the indicators established by the Cabinet Council.*

Director of the Public Children Services Agency; the Superintendent of the County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; the senior County Juvenile Court Judge or a designated Juvenile Court Judge; the Superintendent of the school district with the largest number of pupils residing in the county and a Superintendent representing all other school districts with territory in the county; a representative of the municipal corporation with the largest population in the county; a representative of the regional office of the Department of Youth Services; a representative of the county's Head Start agencies; and a representative of the county's early intervention collaborative established pursuant to federal law.

The bill allows the officials listed above to appoint a designee to serve on the council in their stead (R.C. 121.37(B)(1)).

### **Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council Advisory Board**

The bill creates the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council Advisory Board to provide guidance to the Cabinet Council regarding efforts to meet Ohio's commitments to child well-being. Under the bill, the membership of the Board is as follows:

(1) One member from the Governor's office, to be appointed by the Governor;

(2) Two members of the House of Representatives, each from a different political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) Two members of the Senate, each from a different political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate;

(4) Three members of the general public who are primary caregivers and who use or have used a service provided by an agency represented on a family and children first county council, one of whom is to be appointed by the Governor, one by the Speaker of the House, and one by the President of the Senate;

(5) Two members representing a foundation or nonprofit organization with expertise in issues related to children, families, or education, one of whom is to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one by the President of the Senate;

(6) One member representing a faith-based organization, to be appointed by the Governor;

(7) One member from a family and children first county council in a rural county, to be appointed by the Governor; and

(8) One member from a family and children first county council in an urban county, to be appointed by the Governor.

Each member of the Board is required to serve until a replacement member is appointed, and vacancies are filled in the same manner as original appointments. Members of the Board are not to be compensated. (R.C. 121.374.)

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	06-02-05
Reported, H. Health	11-03-05
Passed House (89-3)	12-14-05

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