



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Laurel Mannion

S.B. 162

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Kearney, Turner, Smith, Sawyer

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to conduct a feasibility study of current trends in the placement of children by public children services agencies into relative caregiver homes.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Feasibility study

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to conduct a feasibility study of current trends in the placement of children by public children services agencies (PCSAs) into relative caregiver homes. It requires that the study focus on a continuum of options, including the following:

- Informal relative placements;
- Judicial transfer of legal custody or guardianship to a relative caregiver and the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program;
- Use of approved relative caregivers;
- Relatives becoming certified foster caregivers; and
- Relatives as adoptive parents.

The study also must include PCSA and court practices; child outcomes addressing safety, stability, and permanency; and the state and local cost implications of adding a subsidized relative guardianship program. The bill requires that ODJFS

complete the study by December 31, 2012, and submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Background: subsidized guardianship programs

Since the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997¹ was enacted, but before enactment of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008,² 39 states and the District of Columbia have developed subsidized guardianship programs to provide financial support to eligible relative caregivers of children. These programs were funded through a variety of sources, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the Social Services Block Grant, and state and local funds. The Fostering Connections Act authorized states to use Title IV-E funds to enter into kinship guardianship assistance agreements. These agreements provide payments to grandparents and other relatives who have assumed legal guardianship of children for whom they have cared as foster parents and for whom they have committed to care on a permanent basis. Since the passage of the Fostering Connections Act, nine states and the District of Columbia have enacted legislation concerning subsidized guardianship. Many other states continue to operate state-funded subsidized guardianship programs that predate the Act.³

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-03-11

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¹ P.L. 105-89; 42 U.S.C. §§ 620-679.

² P.L. 110-351; 42 U.S.C. 673(d).

³ National Conference of State Legislatures.

