



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Lisa Sandberg

S.B. 163

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Kearney, Turner, Cates, Lehner

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires that a public children services agency must make reasonable efforts to place a child with the child's siblings when a child comes into the custody of the agency either as part of a sibling group or subsequent to the previous placement of a sibling, unless it would be contrary to the siblings' best interests or well-being.
- Requires the agency to make reasonable efforts to ensure the siblings' interaction if the siblings are not placed together, unless it would be contrary to the siblings' placement or well-being.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Placement of child with siblings

The bill requires a public children services agency to make reasonable efforts to place a child with the child's siblings whenever the child comes into the custody of the public children services agency, either as part of a sibling group or subsequent to the previous placement of a sibling, unless it would be contrary to the siblings' best interests or well-being. If the siblings are not placed together, the bill requires the agency to make reasonable efforts to ensure the siblings' interaction, unless it would be contrary to the siblings' placement or well-being.¹

Background of public children services agencies

A public children services agency means a county children services board, a county department of job and family services, or a private or government entity

¹ R.C. 2151.411.

designated by a board of county commissioners to serve as a child support enforcement agency, a county department of job and family services, a public children services agency, a county department of job and family services and one other of those county family service agencies, or all three of those county family service agencies. ²

The duties of a public children services agency include but are not limited to (1) making an investigation concerning any child alleged to be an abused, neglected, or dependent child, (2) entering into agreements with the parent, guardian, or other person having legal custody of any child, or with the Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Developmental Disabilities, other department, any certified organization within or outside the county, or any agency or institution outside Ohio, having legal custody of any child, with respect to the custody, care, or placement of any child, or with respect to any matter, in the interests of the child, provided the permanent custody of a child is not transferred by a parent to the public children services agency without the consent of the juvenile court, (3) accepting custody of children committed to the public children services agency by a court exercising juvenile jurisdiction, (4) providing such care as the public children services agency considers to be in the best interests of any child adjudicated to be an abused, neglected, or dependent child the agency finds to be in need of public care or service, and (5) acquiring and operating a county children's home, establishing, maintaining, and operating a receiving home for the temporary care of children, or procuring certified foster homes for this purpose.³

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-03-11

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² R.C. 5153.01(A) and 5153.02, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 5153.16(A).

