



*Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments**

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Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 117

125th General Assembly
(S. Health, Human Services, and Aging)

The bill, as amended by Senate committee, does the following:

Criminal records checks

Requires a criminal records check of all adults who reside with a prospective adoptive parent.

Permits Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to waive the fingerprint based criminal records check for an adult resident of a prospective adoptive or foster home or the home of a foster caregiver if the resident is physically unable to comply with the fingerprinting requirement and poses no danger to the foster children or adoptive children, but requires a criminal records check using the resident's name and social security number.

Training

Removes CPR and first aid as a required preplacement training course for foster caregivers generally, but retains it for foster caregivers seeking certification for a specialized foster home.

Returns to current law the type of foster caregiver that must obtain preplacement training on certain additional topics by requiring foster caregivers seeking certification for a "specialized foster home" (a medically fragile foster home or a treatment foster home) to obtain this additional preplacement training; the bill as passed by the House had limited the scope of this provision to foster caregivers seeking certification as treatment foster homes.

Authorizes ODJFS to give an additional amount of time for certain military personnel to complete the foster caregiver continuing training requirements, instead of permitting ODJFS to reduce the amount of training required.

* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate floor.

Applies the provision regarding continuing training of foster caregivers in the Ohio National Guard to members of the Ohio organized militia who have served in active duty for more than 30 days in the preceding two-year period in an emergency or military duty in or outside of Ohio.

Foster homes specifically included in definition of "institution or association"

Expands the definition of "institution or association" in the law governing child placement to specifically refer to the operator of a foster home.

Legislative Office of Education Oversight to conduct a review

Repeals a provision of Am. Sub. H.B. 95 of this General Assembly (the state operating budget) requiring the Legislative Office of Education Oversight to conduct a review of partnership agreements between a Head Start provider and a provider of child care or day care services and report its findings to the General Assembly by the end of this year.

Adoption by foster caregiver

Existing law authorizes a foster caregiver to use an ODJFS prescribed application to obtain the services of an agency to arrange an adoption for the foster caregiver in certain circumstances; the bill as passed by the House had limited this provision to foster caregivers who hold valid foster home certificates; the Senate committee removed this limitation.

Removes provisions that:

- Authorized a foster caregiver who, on or after the bill's effective date, holds a valid foster home certificate to use an ODJFS prescribed application to obtain the services of an agency to arrange an adoption.
- Prohibited an agency that receives an application from such a foster caregiver from requiring additional training to become a prospective adoptive parent beyond the preplacement training requirements for foster caregivers.
- Exempted a foster caregiver described above from the general requirement that an assessor conduct a home study to determine the suitability of a person seeking to adopt a minor.