



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB0019

Introduced 1/14/2021, by Rep. Terra Costa Howard

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 505/5d
750 ILCS 50/18.9

Amends the Children and Family Services Act. In a provision concerning the composition of the Direct Child Welfare Service Employee License Board, provides that, in addition to other specified members, the Board must include 5 licensed professionals from the field of human services with a human services, juris doctor, medical, public administration, or other relevant human services degree (rather than 5 licensed professionals from the field of human services with a human services degree or equivalent course work as required by rule of the Department of Children and Family Services). Amends the Adoption Act. Provides that calls to the toll-free number maintained by the Department of Children and Family Services to respond to requests from the public about its post-placement and post-adoption support services shall be answered no more than one business day after (rather than 24 hours from) receipt of the request.

LRB102 02776 KTG 12783 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning the Department of Children and Family
2 Services.

3 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
4 **represented in the General Assembly:**

5 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended
6 by changing Section 5d as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 505/5d)

8 Sec. 5d. The Direct Child Welfare Service Employee License
9 Board.

10 (a) For purposes of this Section:

11 (1) "Board" means the Direct Child Welfare Service
12 Employee License Board.

13 (2) "Director" means the Director of Children and
14 Family Services.

15 (b) The Direct Child Welfare Service Employee License
16 Board is created within the Department of Children and Family
17 Services and shall consist of 9 members appointed by the
18 Director. The Director shall annually designate a chairperson
19 and vice-chairperson of the Board. The membership of the Board
20 must be composed as follows: (i) 5 licensed professionals from
21 the field of human services with a human services, juris
22 doctor, medical, public administration, or other relevant
23 human services degree ~~or equivalent course work as required by~~

1 ~~rule of the Department~~ and who are in good standing within
2 their profession, at least 2 of which must be employed in the
3 private not-for-profit sector and at least one of which in the
4 public sector; (ii) 2 faculty members of an accredited
5 university who have child welfare experience and are in good
6 standing within their profession and (iii) 2 members of the
7 general public who are not licensed under this Act or a similar
8 rule and will represent consumer interests.

9 In making the first appointments, the Director shall
10 appoint 3 members to serve for a term of one year, 3 members to
11 serve for a term of 2 years, and 3 members to serve for a term
12 of 3 years, or until their successors are appointed and
13 qualified. Their successors shall be appointed to serve 3-year
14 terms, or until their successors are appointed and qualified.
15 Appointments to fill unexpired vacancies shall be made in the
16 same manner as original appointments. No member may be
17 reappointed if a reappointment would cause that member to
18 serve on the Board for longer than 6 consecutive years. Board
19 membership must have reasonable representation from different
20 geographic areas of Illinois, and all members must be
21 residents of this State.

22 The Director may terminate the appointment of any member
23 for good cause, including but not limited to (i) unjustified
24 absences from Board meetings or other failure to meet Board
25 responsibilities, (ii) failure to recuse himself or herself
26 when required by subsection (c) of this Section or Department

1 rule, or (iii) failure to maintain the professional position
2 required by Department rule. No member of the Board may have a
3 pending or indicated report of child abuse or neglect or a
4 pending complaint or criminal conviction of any of the
5 offenses set forth in paragraph (b) of Section 4.2 of the Child
6 Care Act of 1969.

7 The members of the Board shall receive no compensation for
8 the performance of their duties as members, but each member
9 shall be reimbursed for his or her reasonable and necessary
10 expenses incurred in attending the meetings of the Board.

11 (c) The Board shall make recommendations to the Director
12 regarding licensure rules. Board members must recuse
13 themselves from sitting on any matter involving an employee of
14 a child welfare agency at which the Board member is an employee
15 or contractual employee. The Board shall make a final
16 determination concerning revocation, suspension, or
17 reinstatement of an employee's direct child welfare service
18 license after a hearing conducted under the Department's
19 rules. Upon notification of the manner of the vote to all the
20 members, votes on a final determination may be cast in person,
21 by telephonic or electronic means, or by mail at the
22 discretion of the chairperson. A simple majority of the
23 members appointed and serving is required when Board members
24 vote by mail or by telephonic or electronic means. A majority
25 of the currently appointed and serving Board members
26 constitutes a quorum. A majority of a quorum is required when a

1 recommendation is voted on during a Board meeting. A vacancy
2 in the membership of the Board shall not impair the right of a
3 quorum to perform all the duties of the Board. Board members
4 are not personally liable in any action based upon a
5 disciplinary proceeding or otherwise for any action taken in
6 good faith as a member of the Board.

7 (d) The Director may assign Department employees to
8 provide staffing services to the Board. The Department must
9 promulgate any rules necessary to implement and administer the
10 requirements of this Section.

11 (Source: P.A. 92-471, eff. 8-22-01; 92-651, eff. 7-11-02.)

12 Section 10. The Adoption Act is amended by changing
13 Section 18.9 as follows:

14 (750 ILCS 50/18.9)

15 Sec. 18.9. Post-placement and post-adoption support
16 services.

17 (a) It is the public policy of this State to find
18 permanency for children through adoption and to prevent
19 placement disruption, adoption dissolution, and secondary
20 placement. Public awareness and access to timely, effective
21 post-placement and post-adoption support services to provide
22 resources for children and families is essential to promote
23 permanency.

24 (b) The Department shall establish and maintain accessible

1 post-placement and post-adoption support services for all
2 children adopted pursuant to this Act, all children residing
3 in this State adopted pursuant to the Interstate Compact on
4 the Placement of Children, all children residing in this State
5 adopted pursuant to the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, and
6 all former youth in care, as defined by the Children and Family
7 Services Act, who have been placed in a guardianship.

8 (b-5) The Department shall establish and maintain a
9 toll-free number to respond to requests from the public about
10 its post-placement and post-adoption support services under
11 subsection (b) and shall staff the toll-free number so that
12 calls are answered on a timely basis, but in no event more than
13 one business day after 24 hours from the receipt of a request.

14 (c) The Department shall publicize information about the
15 Department's post-placement and post-adoption support services
16 pursuant to subsection (b) and the toll-free number pursuant
17 to subsection (b-5) as follows:

18 (1) it shall post information on the Department's
19 website;

20 (2) it shall provide the information to every licensed
21 child welfare agency, every out of State placement agency
22 or entity approved under Section 4.1 of this Act, and any
23 entity providing adoption support services in the Illinois
24 courts;

25 (3) it shall reference such information in the
26 adoptive parents' rights and responsibilities document

1 that the Department publishes and that is provided to
2 adoptive parents under this Act and the Child Care Act.

3 (4) it shall provide the information, including the
4 Illinois Post Adoption and Guardianship Services booklet,
5 to prospective adoptive parents and guardians as part of
6 its adoption and guardianship training and at the time
7 they are presented with the Permanency Commitment form;
8 and

9 (5) it shall include, in each annual notification
10 letter mailed to adoptive parents and guardians, a short,
11 2-sided flier or news bulletin in plain language that
12 describes access to post-placement and post-adoption
13 services, how to access Medicaid and Individual Care Grant
14 or Family Support Program services, the webpage address to
15 Illinois' Post Adoption and Guardianship Services booklet,
16 information on how to request that a copy of the booklet be
17 mailed, and a sticker or magnet that includes the
18 toll-free number to access the Department's post-placement
19 and post-adoption support services.

20 (c-5) The Department shall review and update annually all
21 information relating to its post-placement and post-adoption
22 support services, including its Post Adoption and Guardianship
23 Services booklet, to include updated information on Individual
24 Care Group or Family Support Program services eligibility and
25 the post-placement and post-adoption support services that are
26 available through the Medicaid program or any other State

1 program for mental health services. The Department and the
2 Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall coordinate
3 their efforts in the development of resources described in
4 this subsection.

5 (d) Every licensed child welfare agency, every entity
6 approved under Section 4.1 of this Act, and any entity
7 providing adoption support services in the Illinois courts
8 shall provide the Department's website address and link to the
9 Department's post-placement and post-adoption support services
10 information set forth in subsection (c) of this Section,
11 including the Department's toll-free number, to every adoptive
12 parent, prospective adoptive parent, and guardian with whom
13 they work in Illinois. This information shall be provided
14 prior to placement.

15 (e) Beginning one year after the effective date of this
16 amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly, the Department
17 shall report annually to the General Assembly on January 15
18 the following information for the preceding year:

19 (1) a description of all post-placement and
20 post-adoption support services the Department provides;

21 (2) without identifying the names of the recipients of
22 the services, the number of guardians, prospective
23 adoptive parents, and adoptive families in Illinois who
24 have received the Department's post-placement and
25 post-adoption support services and the type of services
26 provided and for each, the length of time between the

1 initial contact to the Department to request
2 post-placement and post-adoption support services and the
3 first receipt of services, and the type of services
4 received;

5 (3) the number of families who have contacted the
6 Department about its post-placement and post-adoption
7 support services due to a potential placement disruption,
8 adoption dissolution, secondary placement, or unregulated
9 placement, but for whom the Department declined to provide
10 post-placement and post-adoption support services and the
11 reasons that services were denied;

12 (4) the number of placement disruptions, adoption
13 dissolutions, unregulated placements, and secondary
14 placements, and for each one:

15 (A) the type of placement or adoption, including
16 whether the child who was the subject of the placement
17 was a youth in care as defined in Section 4d of the
18 Children and Family Services Act, and if the child was
19 not a youth in care, whether the adoption was a
20 private, agency, agency-assisted, interstate, or
21 intercountry adoption;

22 (B) if the placement or adoption was intercountry,
23 the country of birth of the child;

24 (C) whether the child who was the subject of the
25 placement disruption, adoption dissolution,
26 unregulated placement, or secondary placement entered

1 State custody;

2 (D) the length of the placement prior to the
3 placement disruption, adoption dissolution,
4 unregulated placement, or secondary placement;

5 (E) the age of the child at the time of the
6 placement disruption, adoption dissolution,
7 unregulated placement, or secondary placement;

8 (F) the reason, if known, for the placement
9 disruption, adoption dissolution, unregulated
10 placement, or secondary placement; and

11 (G) if a licensed child welfare agency or any
12 approved out of State placing entity participated in
13 the initial placement, and, if applicable, the name of
14 the agency or approved out of State placing entity;
15 and

16 (5) a description of the coordination between the
17 Department and the Department of Healthcare and Family
18 Services to develop resources under this subsection,
19 including, but not limited to, a description of the goals
20 of such coordination and whether the goals have been met.

21 (Source: P.A. 100-159, eff. 8-18-17; 101-155, eff. 1-1-20.)