



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS

RECEIVED

JUN 1 1989

House Bill 4798

Sponsor: Rep. Bill Martin

Mich State Law Library

House Bills 4800 and 4801

Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Stabenow

Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 5-15-89

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 4798, 4800, & 4801 AS INTRODUCED 5-10-89

The bills constitute a package of bills that, among other things, would eliminate the October 1, 1989 expiration date for 1984 legislation that established foster care review boards. The bills are not tie-barred.

House Bill 4801, the primary bill of the package, would amend the foster care review board act, Public Act 422 of 1984. It would lodge responsibility for administration of the program with the state court administrator, authorize the creation of multicounty review boards, provide for review of boards and termination of state support, extend the review program to all children in foster care (rather than those who have been in foster care for more than six months), and limit the number of boards in any one county to ten. The act's October 1, 1989 expiration date would be repealed. A more detailed explanation follows.

Program administration. The act at present provides for a program director to be selected by the state court administrator; the bill would instead specify the state court administrator as the person to perform various executive functions, and the state court administrative office as the entity administering the program.

Limits of review. The act limits its review to foster care cases where the child has been in foster care for over six months; the bill would extend the program to all children in foster care who had been assigned to a review board.

Local boards. At present, some counties with more than 100 children in foster care are exempted from having to have foster care review boards if a minimum percentage of children were remaining in foster care over six months. Under the bill, all counties with over 100 children in foster care generally would have to have at least one foster care review board. A county could not have more than ten local foster care review boards. A county with fewer than 100 children in foster care could create a single local board or join with other such counties to form a multicounty board. Either way, the arrangement would have to meet the approval of the state court administrator and the county social services departments and juvenile judges involved. If the state court administrator determined that a local board need not be created in a certain county or that there were insufficient funds available to create a local board, a local board could not be created in that county. Three years after a local board was created, the state court administrative office would determine whether it would continue to provide support to that local board.

Local board members, meetings. The term of a board member would be

House Bills 4798, 4800 & 4801 (5-15-89)

reduced from four to three years. Language exempting case reviews from the open meetings act would be deleted.

Program evaluation. The state court administrator could reevaluate the state board program and make recommendations to the legislature that the program be terminated or placed under the jurisdiction of the legislative or executive branch.

MCL 722.131 et al.

House Bills 4798 and 4801 would make complementary amendments to the child care licensing act (MCL 722.115) and the juvenile code (MCL 712A.17 et al.), respectively.