

STANDARD CHILD ABUSE AND CHILD NEGLECT INVESTIGATION AND INTERVIEW PROTOCOLS

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House Bill 4707 (H-1) as referred to second committee

Sponsor: Rep. Frank Liberati

1st Committee: Families, Children and Seniors

2nd Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 12-1-19

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4707 would amend section 8 of the Child Protection Law (CPL) to require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to conduct an annual review in each county to determine whether the county has adopted and implemented the standard child abuse and child neglect investigation and interview protocols required to be implemented under the act. The department would have to report its findings to the legislature and to the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

MCL 722.628

BACKGROUND:

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) released its performance audit report on Children's Protective Services (CPS) investigations in September 2018.¹ The report summarizes its Observation #2 as follows: "No statutory requirement exists for centralized oversight to ensure that an appropriate [child abuse or child neglect] investigation protocol has been implemented in all Michigan counties." See page 73 of the report for a fuller discussion of Observation #2.²

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4707 would have a moderate fiscal impact on DHHS and a minimum fiscal impact on local units of government. The bill would require DHHS to conduct an annual review in each county of the standard child abuse and child neglect investigation and interview protocols and produce a report. According to the department, conducting this annual review would require an additional department staff member as well as other resources. DHHS estimates the additional cost for 1.0 FTE position, materials, travel expenses, and the development of a tracking system to be approximately \$260,000.

¹ Report highlights: <https://audgen.michigan.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/CPS-REPORT-HIGHLIGHTS.pdf>
Full report: <https://audgen.michigan.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/r431128516-0011.pdf>

² <https://audgen.michigan.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/r431128516-0011.pdf#page=75>

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following entities testified with no position on the bill (9-4-19):

Office of the Auditor General

Office of Children's Ombudsman

Department of Health and Human Services

Legislative Analyst: E. Best

Fiscal Analyst: Viola Bay Wild

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.