



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 239
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Blessing

Reid J. Fleeson, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

- Expands the individuals who may perform the duties of an adoption and foster care home assessor to include individuals who hold a bachelor's degree in certain human services fields.
- Requires professional treatment staff employed by public children services agencies (PCSAs), private child placing agencies, and private noncustodial agencies to meet the same educational qualifications and training requirements as required of PCSA caseworkers in existing law.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Foster care and adoption home assessor qualifications

The bill expands the professional and educational qualifications required for individuals who may perform the duties of a foster care and adoption home assessor to include a person who holds at least a bachelor's degree in any of the following human services fields:

- Social work;
- Sociology;
- Psychology;
- Guidance and counseling;
- Education;
- Religious education;
- Business administration;
- Criminal justice;
- Public administration;

- Child-care administration;
- Nursing;
- Family studies;
- Any other human services field related to working with children and families.

Continuing law requires the individual to also: (1) be employed with, appointed by, or under contract with a court, public children services agency (PCSA), private child placing agency (PCPA), or private noncustodial agency (PNA), and (2) complete training as specified in the Ohio Administrative Code.¹

Professional treatment staff qualifications

The bill requires professional treatment staff employed by a PCSA, PCPA,² or PNA who are not subject to professional licensing requirements for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists to meet the same qualifications and in-service training requirements as PCSA caseworkers under existing law, which is unchanged by the bill.³

Under the bill, “professional treatment staff” is defined as a specialized foster home program agency employee or contractor with responsibility for any of the following:

- Providing rehabilitative services to a child placed in a specialized foster home program or to the child’s family;
- Conducting home studies as an assessor for specialized foster homes;
- Providing clinical direction to specialized foster caregivers;
- Supervision of treatment team leaders.⁴

The bill maintains the same definition for “specialized foster home” as under existing law regarding the placement of children. Under that definition, a specialized foster home is a medically fragile foster home or a treatment foster home. Under current law, a “medically fragile foster home” provides specialized medical services designed to meet the needs of children with intensive health care needs and a “treatment foster home” incorporates special rehabilitative services to treat the specific needs of the children received in the home and that receives and cares for children who are emotionally or behaviorally disturbed, chemically dependent, have developmental disabilities, or otherwise have exceptional needs.⁵

¹ R.C. 3107.014; R.C. 3107.015, not in the bill.

² The bill needs a technical amendment to correct “private child placement agency” to “private child placing agency” in R.C. 5103.57(B).

³ R.C. 5103.57(B).

⁴ R.C. 5103.57(A)(1).

⁵ R.C. 5103.57(A)(2); R.C. 5103.02(F), (K), and (L), not in the bill.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-30-21
