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H.B. 442
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Stephens and Ray

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SUMMARY

- Expands the individuals who may perform the duties of an adoption and foster care home assessor to include the following:
 - Public children services agency (PCSA) caseworkers or PCSA caseworker supervisors;
 - Individuals who hold a bachelor's degree in certain human services fields and have at least one year of experience working with children and families.
- Expands an existing law provision that allows a former PCSA employee to serve as a home assessor to include those who conducted the duties of a PCSA caseworker or PCSA caseworker supervisor while employed (existing law only specifies that the former employee conducted the duties of an assessor while employed).
- Requires professional treatment staff employed by PCSAs, private child placing agencies, and private noncustodial agencies to meet the same educational qualifications and training requirements as required of PCSA caseworkers under existing law.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Qualifications for an adoption and foster care home assessor

The bill adds two new types of individuals to the list of those who may perform the duties of an adoption and foster care home assessor. The first is a public children services agency (PCSA) caseworker or PCSA caseworker supervisor.¹ The second is a person who holds at least a bachelor's degree in the following human services fields and has at least one year of experience working with children and families:

¹ R.C. 3107.014(A)(2)(g).

- 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.²

The bill also expands the eligibility of another group of individuals who may perform home assessments. Under current law, a former employee of a PCSA who conducted the duties of an assessor while so employed is eligible to be a home assessor. The bill adds that a former employee who conducted the duties of a PCSA caseworker or PCSA caseworker supervisor is also eligible.³

The bill maintains existing definitions of a PCSA caseworker and PCSA caseworker supervisor under county children services law. A PCSA caseworker is an individual employed by a PCSA as a caseworker. A PCSA caseworker supervisor is an individual employed by a PCSA to supervise PCSA caseworkers.⁴

Continuing law requires the individual to also: (1) be employed with, appointed by, or under contract with a court, PCSA, private child placing agency (PCPA), or private noncustodial agency (PNA), and (2) complete training as specified in the Ohio Administrative Code.⁵

Qualifications for professional treatment staff

The bill requires professional treatment staff employed by a PCSA, PCPA, or PNA who are not subject to the licensing requirements for counselors, social workers, and marriage and

² R.C. 3107.014(A)(2)(h).

³ R.C. 3107.014(A)(2)(e).

⁴ R.C. 3107.014(A)(2)(e) and (g); R.C. 5153.01(B)(6) and (B)(7), not in the bill.

⁵ R.C. 3107.014(A)(1) and (3).

family therapists to meet the same qualifications and in-service training requirements as PCSA caseworkers under existing law, which is unchanged by the bill.⁶

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;
- Supervising treatment team leaders.⁷

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.⁸

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-06-21
Reported, H. State & Local Gov’t	12-08-21
Passed House (90-1)	12-08-21

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⁶ R.C. 5103.57(B).

⁷ R.C. 5103.57(A)(1).

⁸ R.C. 5103.57(A)(2); R.C. 5103.02(K), not in the bill.