



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Niyah Walters

H.B. 533

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Pelanda, Kick, Riedel, Seitz, Reineke

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits a county sheriff or designee employed in the sheriff's office to conduct a home study of a family or treatment foster home if requested by a public children services agency, private child placing agency, or private noncustodial agency and the requisite training has been completed.
 - Requires the Director of Job and Family Services to adopt rules to govern the home study training for sheriffs and their designees.
 - Decreases the minimum preplacement training hours for family foster homes and specialized foster homes from 36 hours to 21 hours.
 - Permits preplacement training to be provided online.
 - Decreases the minimum continuing training hours for family foster homes from 40 hours to 20 hours in the preceding two-year period.
 - Decreases the minimum continuing training hours for specialized foster homes from 60 hours to 30 hours in the preceding two-year period.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Home studies by a sheriff or designee

The bill permits a county sheriff or a designee employed in the county sheriff's office to conduct a home study of a family foster home or treatment foster home if both of the following are satisfied:

- The study is conducted at the request of a public children services agency, private child placing agency, or private noncustodial agency to whom the duty to inspect and approve such a home has been delegated under current law for the inspection and approval of foster homes;
- The sheriff or designee has completed training in accordance with rules adopted in accordance with the bill.

The bill requires the Director of the Department of Job and Family Services to adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to govern the training necessary for a sheriff or designee to conduct a home study under the bill.¹

Under current law, a "foster home" is a private residence in which children are received apart from their parents, guardian, or legal custodian, by an individual reimbursed for providing the children nonsecure care, supervision, or training twenty-four hours a day. A "family foster home" is simply a foster home that is not a specialized foster home (a specialized foster home is either a treatment foster home or a medically fragile foster home). "Treatment foster home" means a foster home that incorporates special rehabilitative services designed to treat the specific needs of the children received in the foster home and that receives and cares for children who are emotionally or behaviorally disturbed, chemically dependent, developmentally disabled, or otherwise have exceptional needs. "Medically fragile foster home," is a foster home that provides specialized medical services designed to meet the needs of children with intensive health care needs.²

Preplacement training

The bill reduces the minimum hours of preplacement training a prospective foster caregiver must complete in order to receive a foster home certificate for either a family foster home or specialized foster home. The minimum hours are reduced from 36 hours to 21 hours.³ The bill also adds that the required preplacement training may be provided online.⁴

Preplacement training, under current Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) rules, consists of specified courses that focus on the foster caregiver's role as part of the care and treatment of a foster child. Specialized foster home

¹ R.C. 5103.0310.

² R.C. 5103.02, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 5103.031.

⁴ R.C. 5103.037.

preplacement training includes additional training specific to the types of children to be placed in the home.⁵

Continuing training

The bill reduces the minimum hours of continuing training a foster caregiver must complete in the preceding two-year period to renew a foster home certificate. For a family foster home, the requirement is reduced from 40 hours to 20 hours. For a specialized foster home, the reduction is from 60 hours to 30 hours.⁶

Continuing training required under ODJFS rules for family foster home or specialized foster home certification generally must be in accordance with the foster caregiver's written needs assessment and continuing training plan.⁷

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-28-18

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⁵ O.A.C. 5101:2-5-33(C)(2) and (3), not in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 5103.032.

⁷ O.A.C. 5101:2-5-33(C)(2) and (3), not in the bill.

