

HOUSE BILL No. 4457

April 15, 2015, Introduced by Reps. Runestad, Lauwers, Tedder, Crawford, Victory, Johnson, Price, McCready, Hooker, Hughes, Howrylak, Farrington, Gamrat, Kelly, Canfield, Wittenberg, Hovey-Wright, Dianda, Irwin, Robinson, Plawecki, Byrd, Banks, Gay-Dagnogo, Greig, Schor, Yanez, Chirkun, Singh, Durhal, Moss, Santana, Heise, Rendon, McBroom, Chang, Glardon, Bumstead, Leutheuser, Kosowski, Vaupel, Bizon, Derek Miller, Chatfield and Garcia and referred to the Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 203, entitled "Foster care and adoption services act," by amending section 8 (MCL 722.958), as amended by 2002 PA 646.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 8. (1) The department shall promulgate rules under the
2 administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to
3 24.328, to ensure the comprehensive, high-quality training of
4 foster care and adoption workers. ~~It~~**THE DEPARTMENT** shall consult
5 and may contract with colleges and universities, child placing
6 agencies, and professional organizations for the design and
7 implementation of the training. The training shall stress cultural
8 sensitivity, interagency cooperation, and respect for individuals
9 and families.

10 (2) The department shall ~~produce or contract with another~~

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1 ~~person to produce~~ **MAINTAIN** a directory of children under the
2 jurisdiction of the department who are available for adoption. The
3 department shall ~~make copies available throughout the state to~~
4 ensure that interested individuals have reasonable access to the
5 directory.

6 (3) The department shall ~~establish and maintain~~ a registry of
7 adoptive homes to be used as a central clearinghouse for
8 information about prospective adoptive parents. The department
9 shall accept information from a prospective adoptive parent who has
10 received a preplacement assessment with a finding that the
11 individual is suitable to be the parent of an adoptee. The
12 information shall be filed in a form and manner that will permit it
13 to be readily accessible to biological parents or child placing
14 agencies seeking adoptive homes for children. ~~The department shall~~
15 ~~charge a prospective adoptive parent an initial fee of \$100.00 for~~
16 ~~maintaining the information in the registry and a renewal fee of~~
17 ~~\$50.00 for each year the prospective adoptive parent remains in the~~
18 ~~registry.~~ The department shall provide information in the registry
19 without charge to biological parents or child placing agencies who
20 request it.

21 (4) The department may establish as pilot projects foster
22 parent resource centers. Each resource center shall provide at
23 least support for and coordination of respite care and assistance
24 to foster parents in obtaining day care. Resource center staff
25 shall pursue other activities designed to promote permanency for
26 children, particularly children with special needs, such as support
27 aimed at retaining foster parents. The department may fund the

1 pilot foster parent resource centers using money appropriated to
2 the department for the current fiscal year. After the pilot project
3 has been in operation for 2 years, the department shall evaluate
4 the pilot project on its organization, effectiveness, and success.
5 The department shall report the results of this evaluation to the
6 legislature, including in the report the number of foster parents
7 who utilized the particular resource center and the top 10 concerns
8 raised by those foster parents and how those concerns were handled.

9 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
10 after the date it is enacted into law.