

# HOUSE BILL NO. 6026

July 23, 2020, Introduced by Rep. Sabo 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 8b (MCL 722.958b), as added by 2018 PA 489.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

- 1           Sec. 8b. (1) The department shall ensure that the children's
- 2 assurance of quality foster care policy is developed, implemented
- 3 by the supervising agency, and made available to the public.
- 4           (2) The department shall promote the participation of current



1 and former children in foster care in developing the children's  
2 assurance of quality foster care policy.

3 (3) The children's assurance of quality foster care policy  
4 shall ensure that children placed in foster care are provided with  
5 the following:

6 (a) Fair, equal, and respectful treatment, including treatment  
7 that does not violate state and federal law.

8 (b) Placement with relatives and siblings, when appropriate,  
9 as provided in section 4a(5).

10 (c) **Inventory and security of the child in foster care's**  
11 **personal belongings.**

12 (d) ~~(e)~~—Transition planning, including housing, workforce  
13 preparation, financial education, access to personal documents,  
14 information regarding secondary education and postsecondary  
15 education, and independent living preparation, as age-appropriate.

16 (e) ~~(d)~~—Ongoing contact and visits with parents, relatives,  
17 and friends, if permitted by the court.

18 (f) ~~(e)~~—Access to advocacy services for children in foster  
19 care with disabilities.

20 (g) ~~(f)~~—Timely enrollment in school with consistent placement  
21 in the same school, when possible.

22 (h) ~~(g)~~—Participation in extracurricular activities consistent  
23 with the child in foster care's age and developmental level, as  
24 allowed by the supervising agency's resources, taking into  
25 consideration the foster parent's schedule and resources.

26 (i) ~~(h)~~—Placement in the least restrictive setting,  
27 appropriate to the child in foster care's needs in accordance with  
28 R 400.12313 of the Michigan Administrative Code. If discipline is  
29 required, and physical restraint has been used by a child caring



1 institution as that term is defined in section 1 of 1973 PA 116,  
2 MCL 722.111, the child caring institution shall provide a detailed  
3 report of the incident to the department.

4 (j) ~~(i)~~—Access to and receipt of information and services,  
5 including necessary medical, emotional, psychological, psychiatric,  
6 and educational evaluations and treatment, as soon as practicable  
7 after identifying the need for services by the screening and  
8 assessment process.

9 (k) ~~(j)~~—Access to and participation in religious activities,  
10 cultural activities, or both, taking into consideration the foster  
11 parent's schedule and resources.

12 (l) ~~(k)~~—Adequate food, necessities, and shelter, including  
13 special dietary needs, school supplies, clothing, and hygiene  
14 products.

15 (m) ~~(l)~~—Information regarding proposed placement, as age-  
16 appropriate.

17 (n) ~~(m)~~—A permanency plan, as required by state and federal  
18 law, that is designed to facilitate the permanent placement or  
19 return home of a child in foster care in a timely manner.

20 (4) The department shall maintain a written policy describing  
21 the grievance procedure for a child in foster care to address any  
22 perceived noncompliance with the items listed in the children's  
23 assurance of quality foster care policy. The grievance procedure  
24 shall include information on how and where to file a grievance,  
25 including contact information for the office of the children's  
26 ombudsman and the department's office of family advocate, on a form  
27 approved by the department.

28 (5) A child in foster care may file a grievance with the  
29 supervising agency regarding the perceived noncompliance with any



1 of the items listed in the children's assurance of quality foster  
2 care policy as outlined in the supervising agency's grievance  
3 policy described in subsection (4). Within 30 days after receiving  
4 the grievance, the supervising agency shall respond with a written  
5 statement of how the child in foster care's grievance will be  
6 addressed. If the supervising agency does not provide a written  
7 response within 30 days after the grievance is filed with the  
8 supervising agency or if the child in foster care does not agree  
9 with the findings in the written response, the child in foster care  
10 may contact the department's office of family advocate.

11 (6) If the grievance is not resolved with the assistance of  
12 the department's office of family advocate, the child in foster  
13 care may request that his or her lawyer-guardian ad litem petition  
14 the court for the appropriate relief.

15 (7) The sole remedy that may be provided under this section is  
16 limited to injunctive relief.

17 (8) The department shall implement the children's assurance of  
18 quality foster care policy no later than ~~90 days after the~~  
19 ~~effective date of the amendatory act that added this section.~~ **June**  
20 **25, 2019.**

