

March 4, 2003

**H 203. AMEND CHILD WELFARE LAWS. TO CLARIFY AND MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE CHILD WELFARE LAWS AND TO ENHANCE THE STATE'S ABILITY TO PROTECT CHILDREN.** Amends GS 7B-101 to add definition of "family assessment response" as the use of a family-centered approach to allegations of child neglect and dependency and of "investigative assessment response" as the use of a formal information gathering process in response to abuse allegations that includes providing services to prevent further abuse; further amends GS 7B-101 to define "multiple response system" as the use of either of the above methods by county social services departments. Changes GS 7B-101(14) to provide that references to rights and privileges of "juvenile" includes the attorney for the juvenile. Amends GS 7B-301 through 7B-309 and GS 7B-404(a) to change references to "investigation" to "assessment" and amends GS 7B-302 to require that social service director use either a family assessment or investigative assessment response. Clarifies that service of summons under GS 7B-407 must be in accordance with GS 1A-1, Rule 4(j). Modifies GS 115C-378 to require that principal notify director of social services of a determination that a parent has not made a good faith effort to comply with school attendance requirements and requires that the director decide the appropriateness of conducting a protective services assessment. Completely rewrites GS 131D-10.6B to delete all provisions concerning the procedure for reporting deaths in state mental health facilities. New provisions require that Division of Social Services maintain a registry of foster parent applicants and specifies the information that must be maintained by the registry and information that is not subject to disclosure as a public record. Adds new GS 143B-150.20(d1) providing that State Child Fatality Review Team may seek to compel the disclosure of information necessary to conduct investigations of child fatalities and outlines the procedure for obtaining such an order; deletes requirement that Team activities be reported to General Assembly annually. Adds new GS 153A-257(d) to require that State DSS director determine which social service department shall handle a child neglect matter where the child's residency is unclear. Makes technical corrections.

**Intro. by Culpepper.**

Ref. to Children, Youth & Families	GS 7B, 108A, 110, 115C, 131D, 143B, 153A
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