



Bill Draft 2019-NBza-69: Social Services Reform/CWBTC.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:
Introduced by:
Analysis of: 2019-NBza-69

Date: June 19, 2020
Prepared by: Jared Simmons
Staff Attorney

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1.(a) requires the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) to establish seven regions for regional supervision of child welfare and social services and to begin providing oversight and support within those regions through State regional staff by March 1, 2021, consistent with Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group (SSWG) report issued on March 31, 2019 and Rylan's Law. The Department shall repurpose and redeploy positions and staff as identified in the SSWG report to support this adjustment to regional supervision. The Department shall procure offices within each region beginning in March 2022 and prioritize staffing in the child welfare system with moving towards full implementation of the regional model by March 1, 2023.

Section 1.(b) appropriates \$914,790 in recurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to support the new staff positions for regional supervision.

Section 1.(c) contains language to ensure the funds appropriated in subsection (b) of this section are not appropriated two separate times for the same positions.

Section 1.(d) makes this section effective on July 1, 2020.

Section 2.(a) modifies the responsibilities of new board members of county boards of social services to attend education and training sessions in their first year serving on the board.

Section 2.(b) directs the Department to collaborate with key stakeholders, including the North Carolina Association of County Boards of Social Services, Association of North Carolina County Social Services Directors, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the University of North Carolina School of Government, to create formal education and training sessions for new county boards of social services members as provided in subsection (a) of this section, and be made available by September 1, 2020.

Section 2.(c) states subsection (b) of this section is effective when it becomes law, and subsection (a) is effective on April 1, 2021, and directs all current county board members be trained by April 1, 2023.

Section 3 repeals sections of House Bill 935 if that bill becomes law.

Section 4 states this act is effective when it becomes law, except where otherwise provided.

Kory Goldsmith
Director



Legislative Drafting
919-733-6660

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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BILL DRAFT 2019-NBza-69 [v.10]

**(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
06/12/2020 10:15:38 AM**

Short Title: Social Services Reform/CWBTC.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATED TO SOCIAL SERVICES
REFORM AND MAKE APPROPRIATIONS TO TRANSITION TO REGIONAL
SUPERVISION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA CHILD
WELL-BEING TRANSFORMATION COUNCIL.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) In accordance with the plan submitted by the Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group (SSWG) in its report on March 31, 2019, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services as required by S.L. 2017-41 (Rylan's Law), the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) shall establish seven regions for regional supervision of child welfare and social services and begin providing oversight and support within those regions through State regional staff and the central office team by March 1, 2021. To that end, the Department shall move forward, pursuant to existing authority, with repurposing and redeploying (i) positions identified in the report to support regionalization and (ii) all managerial staff needed to support regionalization in the central office. The Department shall pursue procurement of physical offices within each of the seven regions beginning in March 2022 and shall prioritize staffing to improve the child welfare system. The Department shall move towards full implementation of a regional model, with offices, by March 1, 2023.

SECTION 1.(b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, the sum of nine hundred fourteen thousand seven hundred ninety dollars (\$914,790) recurring for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to support 11 new staff positions to improve regional supervision and support of child welfare services pursuant to the plan as described under subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 1.(c) If House Bill 966, 2019 Regular Session, becomes law, then any provision of that act, or the Committee Report described in that act, appropriating or allocating funds to the Department of Health and Human Services to support 11 new staff positions to improve regional supervision and support of child welfare services pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is repealed.

SECTION 1.(d) This section becomes effective July 1, 2020.

SECTION 2.(a) G.S. 108A-9 reads as rewritten:

"§ 108A-9. Duties and responsibilities.

The county board of social services shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

...



(4a) To attend education and training sessions provided for new board members during the first year they serve on the board.

...."

SECTION 2.(b) The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, shall collaborate with key stakeholders, including the North Carolina Association of County Boards of Social Services, Association of North Carolina County Social Services Directors, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the University of North Carolina School of Government, to create formal education and training sessions for new county boards of social services members in accordance with G.S. 108A-9(4a), as provided in subsection (a) of this section. The education and training sessions shall include a segment on the potential liabilities of the county board of social services. The education and training sessions shall be available statewide by September 1, 2020.

SECTION 2.(c) Section 2(b) of this act is effective when it becomes law. Section 2(a) of this act becomes effective April 1, 2021, and by April 1, 2023, all current county board of social services members must have participated in the education and training sessions provided in G.S. 108A-9(4a).

SECTION 3. If House Bill 935, 2019 Regular Session, becomes law, then Sections 1 and 4 of that act, are repealed.

SECTION 4. Except where otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.