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Substitute Bill Comparative Synopsis

Sub. H.B. 4

134th General Assembly

House Family, Aging, and Human Services

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This table summarizes how the latest substitute version of the bill differs from the immediately preceding version. It addresses only the topics on which the two versions differ substantively. It does not list topics on which the two bills are substantively the same.

Previous Version (As Introduced)	Latest Version (I_134_0277-2)
Children Service Ombudsman Office	
No provision.	Establishes the Children Service Ombudsman Office under the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) for investigating and resolving concerns and complaints from and on behalf of children and families involved with entities overseeing foster care or the placement of children (<i>R.C. 5101.89 to 5101.899</i>).

Previous Version (As Introduced)	Latest Version (I_134_0277-2)
Cross-reporting child neglect reports	
Requires a public children services agency (PCSA), when it receives a child neglect report, to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of the report (<i>R.C. 2151.421(E)(2)(c)</i>).	Requires a PCSA to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency if it receives a report of child neglect that alleges a type of neglect identified by the ODJFS Director in rules adopted under the bill (<i>R.C. 2151.421(E)(2)(c)</i>).
ODJFS rules for cross-reporting of child neglect reports	
No provision.	Requires, no later than 90 days after the bill's effective date, the ODJFS Director to adopt rules to identify the types of child neglect that a PCSA is required to notify law enforcement about (<i>R.C. 2151.421(L)(2)</i>).
Permissive reporters permitted to request child/report information	
Allows permissive reporters of child abuse or neglect to make a reasonable number of requests to the PCSA that receives or is referred, or the children's advocacy center that is referred, the abuse or neglect report for certain information relating to the report and the child (<i>R.C. 2151.421(K)(1)</i>).	No provision.
Annual vs. biennial memorandum of understanding requirements	
<p>Requires the following to be done <i>annually</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review, evaluation, update, signing, and submission to the board of county commissioners of a county's child abuse and neglect memorandum of understanding by the officials required to sign; ▪ Adoption of a resolution by the board of county commissioners to approve the memorandum, by December 31 of each year; 	Changes the requirements to <i>biennial</i> , from annual (<i>R.C. 2151.4212, 2151.4216, and 2151.4219</i>).

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit of the memorandum by ODJFS to ensure compliance with statutory requirements under the bill. <p><i>(R.C. 2151.4212, 2151.4216, and 2151.4219.)</i></p>	
Review/approval of representative signer by juvenile judge	
No provision.	Requires the review and approval of a juvenile judge or senior juvenile judge for the judge’s representative to sign a memorandum of understanding in place of the judge <i>(R.C. 2151.4210(A)(1) and (2)).</i>
PCSA request to court to examine and interview a child	
No provision.	Permits a PCSA, if it receives a report of child abuse or neglect or that a child may be a dependent child and is denied reasonable access to the child by a parent, guardian, custodian, or caregiver, or any other information necessary, to submit a sworn affidavit explaining the need to the juvenile court and requesting the court to issue an order granting the PCSA access to examine and interview the child or conduct other activities as necessary. Gives the juvenile court exclusive, original jurisdiction over such proceedings. <i>(R.C. 2151.23(A)(18) and 2151.25.)</i>
Foster care and adoption home study assessor qualifications	
No provision.	Adds, as an individual qualified to perform foster care and adoption home studies: (1) a current or former PCSA caseworker, (2) a current PCSA caseworker supervisor, and (3) an individual with a master’s degree in social work or a related field who is, and has been, employed for at least two years, in a human-services-related occupation <i>(R.C. 3107.014).</i>