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H.B. 442
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Stephens and Ray

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SUMMARY

- Expands the individuals who may perform the duties of an adoption and foster care home assessor to include individuals who hold a bachelor's degree in certain human services fields.
- Requires professional treatment staff employed by public children services agencies (PCSAs), private child placing agencies, and private noncustodial agencies to meet the same educational qualifications and training requirements as required of PCSA caseworkers under existing law.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Qualifications for an adoption and foster care home assessor

The bill adds to the list of individuals who may perform the duties of an adoption and foster care home assessor those who hold at least a bachelor's degree in the following human services fields:

- Social work;
- Sociology;
- Psychology;
- Guidance and counseling;
- Education;
- Religious education;
- Business administration;
- Criminal justice;
- Public administration;

- Child care administration;
- Nursing;
- Family studies;
- Any other human services field related to working with children and families.¹

Continuing law requires the individual to also: (1) be employed with, appointed by, or under contract with a court, public children services agency (PCSA), private child placing agency (PCPA), or private noncustodial agency (PNA), and (2) complete training as specified in the Ohio Administrative Code.²

Qualifications for professional treatment staff

The bill requires professional treatment staff employed by a PCSA, PCPA,³ or PNA who are not subject to the licensing requirements for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists to meet the same qualifications and in-service training requirements as PCSA caseworkers under existing law, which is unchanged by the bill.⁴

Under the bill, “professional treatment staff” is defined as a specialized foster home program agency employee or contractor with responsibility for any of the following:

- Providing rehabilitative services to a child placed in a specialized foster home program or to the child’s family;
- Conducting home studies as an assessor for specialized foster homes;
- Providing clinical direction to specialized foster caregivers;
- Supervising treatment team leaders.⁵

The bill maintains the same definition for “specialized foster home” as under existing law regarding the placement of children. Under that definition, a “specialized foster home” is a medically fragile foster home or a treatment foster home.⁶

¹ R.C. 3107.014(A)(2)(g).

² R.C. 3107.014(A)(1) and (3).

³ The bill needs a technical amendment to correct “private child *placement* agency” to “private child *placing* agency” in R.C. 5103.57(B).

⁴ R.C. 5103.57(B).

⁵ R.C. 5103.57(A)(1).

⁶ R.C. 5103.57(A)(2); R.C. 5103.02(K), not in the bill.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-06-21
