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H.B. 532
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Children and Human Services

Primary Sponsor: Rep. K. Miller

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SUMMARY

- Requires a court officer or law enforcement officer who takes custody of a child in specified circumstances to immediately notify the public children services agency (PCSA) of the county in which the child is taken into custody if the child cannot be released to a parent, guardian, or custodian.
- Requires a PCSA that receives such notice to take immediate temporary emergency care of the child and, if the child resides in a different county, to provide temporary emergency care of the child until the child can be released to an appropriate caregiver or the PCSA of the county where the child resides.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Require PCSA to take immediate temporary emergency care

The bill specifies that, if a child is taken into custody for reasons related to the child's welfare and the child cannot be released to a parent, guardian, or custodian, the court officer or law enforcement officer must immediately notify the public children services agency (PCSA) of the county in which the child is taken into custody.¹ Upon receiving notice, the PCSA must take immediate temporary emergency care of the child. If the child is taken into temporary emergency care in a county other than the county in which the child resides, the PCSA must provide temporary emergency care of the child until the child is able to be released to an appropriate caregiver or to the PCSA of the county where the child resides.²

¹ R.C. 2151.31(D)(1).

² R.C. 2151.31(D)(2).

Exceptions

The bill does not require a court officer or law enforcement officer to immediately notify a PCSA as specified above when law enforcement would be involved in taking custody of the child for reasons unrelated to the child's welfare. This includes the following circumstances when a child may be taken into custody under existing law:

- If a juvenile offender has been released from custody or detention, pursuant to a court order when a victim alleges that the juvenile offender has committed or threatened to commit violence, harassment, or intimidation against the victim or the victim's family or representative;
- Pursuant to the laws of arrest;
- Circumstances related to the unlawful employment of minors;
- When a complaint has been filed with respect to a child who is believed to be a juvenile traffic offender or a delinquent child or the child has been indicted or charged by information as a serious youthful offender and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the child may abscond or be removed from the jurisdiction of the court;
- When there are reasonable grounds to believe that the child committed a delinquent act and that taking the child into custody is necessary to protect the public interest and safety.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-21-25
Reported, H. Children & Human Services	02-17-26

ANHB0532RH-136/ar

³ R.C. 2151.31(D)(1)(a) to (e).