



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Olds Plaza Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

REVIEW CHILD DEATHS

House Bill 4145

Sponsor: Rep. Alma Stallworth

Complete to 2-14-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4145 AS INTRODUCED 2-7-91

The bill would add a new part to the Public Health Code to create a "child mortality review panel" in the Department of Public Health (DPH) to review child fatalities in the state and to make recommendations on how to help avoid such deaths.

Panel membership. Panel members, who would be appointed by the DPH, would include a forensic investigator employed by a law enforcement agency, a child development specialist, a physician who specialized in emergency medicine, a county medical examiner, an attorney familiar with issues related to child mortality, and representatives from university schools of social work and public health and a local community program that dealt with issues related to child deaths.

In addition, the panel would include as non-voting members representatives from the DPH and from the office in the Department of Social Services that deals with child welfare issues.

Panel members would be reimbursed for their expenses.

Duties and powers. The panel would be required to:

- * develop ways of reviewing deaths of children (as well as child mortality trends and patterns) in the state in order to recommend remedial action;
- * review child fatalities;
- * conduct a review to decide how adequately children were protected and how the number of preventable deaths of children could be reduced;
- * conduct a statewide surveillance of child deaths; and
- * beginning within a year after being appointed, make annual recommendations to the DPH, the governor, and the legislature on what could be done to avoid child deaths, specifically addressing gaps or problems in existing laws and policies (and their administration) and in cooperation, training, and resources among agencies and disciplines.

The panel could give priority to a specific cause of child deaths, appoint subcommittees to address specific child mortality issues, and could promulgate rules if considered necessary to implement the bill.

DPH support. The Department of Public Health would be required to provide staff support and pediatric medicine consultation to the panel, and to allow the panel to use both the department's medical advisory bodies and the department's records and reporting capacity for mortality surveillance in the review process.

Sunset. The bill would be repealed three years after it took effect.

MCL 333.2501 et al.