

Act No. 646
Public Acts of 2002
Approved by the Governor
December 22, 2002
Filed with the Secretary of State
December 23, 2002
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 23, 2002

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
91ST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2002**

Introduced by Reps. Vander Veen, Richardville, Tabor, Meyer, Voorhees, Birkholz, Stewart, Toy and Hart

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5242

AN ACT to amend 1994 PA 203, entitled "An act to establish certain standards for foster care and adoption services for children and their families; and to prescribe powers and duties of certain state agencies and departments and adoption facilitators," by amending section 8 (MCL 722.958).

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

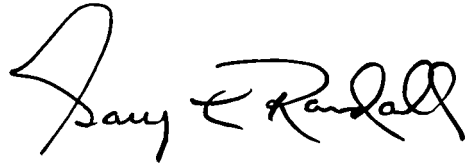
Sec. 8. (1) The department shall promulgate rules under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, to ensure the comprehensive, high-quality training of foster care and adoption workers. It shall consult and may contract with colleges and universities, child placing agencies, and professional organizations for the design and implementation of the training. The training shall stress cultural sensitivity, interagency cooperation, and respect for individuals and families.

(2) The department shall produce or contract with another person to produce a directory of children under the jurisdiction of the department who are available for adoption. The department shall make copies available throughout the state to ensure that interested individuals have reasonable access to the directory.

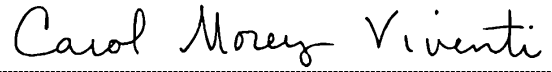
(3) The department shall establish and maintain a registry of adoptive homes to be used as a central clearinghouse for information about prospective adoptive parents. The department shall accept information from a prospective adoptive parent who has received a preplacement assessment with a finding that the individual is suitable to be the parent of an adoptee. The information shall be filed in a form and manner that will permit it to be readily accessible to biological parents or child placing agencies seeking adoptive homes for children. The department shall charge a prospective adoptive parent an initial fee of \$100.00 for maintaining the information in the registry and a renewal fee of \$50.00 for each year the prospective adoptive parent remains in the registry. The department shall provide information in the registry without charge to biological parents or child placing agencies who request it.

(4) The department may establish as pilot projects foster parent resource centers. Each resource center shall provide at least support for and coordination of respite care and assistance to foster parents in obtaining day care. Resource center staff shall pursue other activities designed to promote permanency for children, particularly children with special needs, such as support aimed at retaining foster parents. The department may fund the pilot foster parent resource centers using money appropriated to the department for the current fiscal year. After the pilot project has been in operation for 2 years, the department shall evaluate the pilot project on its organization, effectiveness, and success. The department shall report the results of this evaluation to the legislature, including in the report the number of foster parents who utilized the particular resource center and the top 10 concerns raised by those foster parents and how those concerns were handled.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives.



Secretary of the Senate.

Approved _____

Governor.