

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 259**

A bill to create the office of the legislative child fatality examiner; and to prescribe the powers and duties of the legislative child fatality examiner, the legislative council, certain state departments and officers, and certain county and private agencies serving children.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
2 "legislative child fatality review act".

3           Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4           (a) "Department" means the department of human services.

5           (b) "Examiner" means the legislative child fatality examiner  
6 created in section 3.

7           Sec. 3. (1) The office of the legislative child fatality  
8 examiner is created within the legislative council.

1           (2) At the request of both the senate majority leader and the  
2 speaker of the house of representatives, the legislative council  
3 administrator shall either contract for the services of a  
4 legislative child fatality examiner to carry out the provisions of  
5 this act or appoint a designee to serve as the legislative child  
6 fatality examiner, who shall serve at the pleasure of the  
7 legislative council.

8           (3) The principal purpose for the examiner is to identify  
9 specific causes and systemic problems that contribute to the  
10 mortality of children in foster care.

11           (4) The office of the legislative child fatality examiner  
12 shall request and the examiner shall review the reports published  
13 by the office of the children's ombudsman under section 10 of the  
14 children's ombudsman's act, the state advisory committee created  
15 under section 7b(4) of the child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL  
16 722.627b, information from the public registry created in section  
17 7b(10) of the child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.627b, and  
18 any other source of information on a child death that occurs while  
19 a child is under a Michigan court's jurisdiction. The examiner  
20 shall make a report upon completion of the review required under  
21 this subsection to the standing committees of the legislature with  
22 jurisdiction over matters pertaining to child protection.

23           Enacting section 1. This act does not take effect unless  
24 Senate Bill No. 257 of the 95th Legislature is enacted into law.