

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 435

A bill to establish a program for youths at least 18 years of age who choose to remain under certain state care up to 21 years of age; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state departments and agencies.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 ARTICLE I

2 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "young
3 adult voluntary foster care act".

4 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

5 (a) "Court" means the family division of the circuit court.

6 (b) "Department" means the department of human services.

7 (c) "Youth" means an individual who is at least 18 years of
8 age but less than 21 years of age.

9 ARTICLE II

1 Sec. 5. The department shall implement the young adult
2 voluntary foster care act in accordance with the state's approved
3 title IV-E state plan.

4 Sec. 7. A youth who exited foster care after reaching 18 years
5 of age but before reaching 21 years of age may reenter foster care
6 and receive extended foster care services.

7 Sec. 9. The department may provide extended foster care
8 services if the youth meets 1 of the following conditions for
9 eligibility:

10 (a) The youth is completing secondary education or a program
11 leading to an equivalent credential.

12 (b) The youth is enrolled in an institution that provides
13 postsecondary or vocational education.

14 (c) The youth is participating in a program or activity
15 designed to promote employment or remove barriers to employment.

16 (d) The youth is employed for at least 80 hours per month.

17 (e) The youth is incapable of doing any part of the activities
18 in subdivisions (a) to (d) due to a medical condition. This
19 assertion of incapacity must be supported by regularly updated
20 information in the youth's case plan.

21 Sec. 11. If a youth chooses to participate in extended foster
22 care services and meets the eligibility criteria set forth in
23 section 9, the department and the youth shall sign a voluntary
24 foster care agreement that shall include, at a minimum, information
25 regarding all of the following:

26 (a) The obligation for the youth to continue to meet the
27 conditions for eligibility described in section 9 for the duration

1 of the voluntary foster care agreement.

2 (b) Any obligation considered necessary by the department for
3 the youth to continue to receive extended foster care services.

4 (c) Any obligation considered necessary by the department to
5 facilitate the youth's continued success in the program.

6 (d) Termination of a voluntary foster care agreement and
7 program participation as described in section 23.

8 (e) The voluntary nature of the youth's participation in
9 receiving extended foster care services.

10 Sec. 13. As soon as the department determines that a youth is
11 eligible under section 9 and the youth signs the voluntary foster
12 care agreement described in section 11, the department may provide
13 extended foster care services to the youth in accordance with this
14 act.

15 Sec. 15. Within 150 days after the voluntary foster care
16 agreement is signed, the department shall file with the court in
17 the county where the youth resides a written report that shall
18 contain all of the following:

19 (a) The youth's name, date of birth, race, gender, and current
20 address.

21 (b) A statement of facts that supports the voluntary foster
22 care agreement and includes both of the following:

23 (i) The reasonable efforts made to achieve permanency for the
24 youth.

25 (ii) The reasons why it remains in the youth's best interests
26 to continue in voluntary foster care.

27 (c) A copy of the signed voluntary foster care agreement.

1 (d) Any other information the department or the youth wants
2 the court to consider.

3 Sec. 17. The court has the jurisdiction to review the
4 voluntary foster care agreement signed by the department and the
5 youth in section 11. Upon the filing of a report under section 15,
6 the court shall open a young adult voluntary foster care case for
7 the purpose of determining whether continuing in voluntary foster
8 care is in the youth's best interests. The court shall make that
9 determination not later than 21 days after the date the report was
10 filed as described in section 15.

11 Sec. 19. Following the court's determination in section 17,
12 the court shall close the young adult voluntary foster care case
13 and the department shall provide extended foster care services to
14 the youth in accordance with this act.

15 Sec. 21. The department shall conduct periodic case reviews
16 not less than once every 180 days to address the status of the
17 youth's safety, continuing necessity and appropriateness of
18 placement, extent of compliance with the case plan, and projected
19 date by which the youth may no longer require extended foster care
20 services.

21 Sec. 23. (1) A youth may choose to terminate the voluntary
22 foster care agreement and stop receiving extended foster care
23 services at any time.

24 (2) If, at any time, the department determines that the youth
25 is not in compliance with the voluntary foster care agreement or
26 any program requirements, the department may terminate the
27 voluntary foster care agreement with the youth and stop providing

1 extended foster care services to the youth. The department shall
2 provide written or electronic notice to the youth regarding
3 termination of the voluntary foster care agreement and the youth's
4 participation in the program.

5 ARTICLE III

6 Sec. 25. (1) The department may provide extended guardianship
7 assistance for a youth, who is at least 18 years of age but less
8 than 21 years of age, if the youth began receiving guardianship
9 assistance at 16 years of age or older.

10 (2) The department shall determine a youth's initial and
11 subsequent eligibility for extended guardianship assistance in
12 accordance with the state's approved title IV-E plan.

13 Sec. 27. The department may provide extended guardianship
14 assistance in accordance with this article if the youth meets 1 of
15 the following conditions for eligibility:

16 (a) The youth is completing secondary education or a program
17 leading to an equivalent credential.

18 (b) The youth is enrolled in an institution that provides
19 postsecondary or vocational education.

20 (c) The youth is participating in a program or activity
21 designed to promote employment or remove barriers to employment.

22 (d) The youth is employed for at least 80 hours per month.

23 (e) The youth is incapable of doing any part of the activities
24 in subdivisions (a) to (d) due to a medical condition. This
25 assertion of incapacity must be supported by regularly updated
26 information.

27 Sec. 29. (1) The court shall retain jurisdiction of a youth

1 receiving extended guardianship assistance until that youth no
2 longer receives guardianship assistance.

3 (2) The court shall hold a hearing regarding the youth's
4 continued participation in extended guardianship assistance not
5 less than 1 time every 12 months. A hearing held under this section
6 may be combined with a hearing held under section 19(2) to (4) of
7 chapter XIIA of the probate code of 1939, 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.19,
8 section 19a(1) of chapter XIIA of the probate code of 1939, 1939 PA
9 288, MCL 712A.19a, or section 19c(1) of chapter XIIA of the probate
10 code of 1939, 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.19c.

11 ARTICLE IV

12 Sec. 31. (1) In accordance with the provisions of section
13 115j(4) of the social welfare act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.115j, the
14 department may provide extended adoption assistance for an adoptee
15 who is at least 18 years of age but less than 21 years of age if
16 the department determines that the adoptee first received adoption
17 assistance at age 16 years or older and 1 of the following exists:

18 (a) The youth has a mental or physical disability that
19 warrants continuation of adoption assistance.

20 (b) The youth is completing secondary education or a program
21 leading to an equivalent credential.

22 (c) The youth is enrolled in an institution that provides
23 postsecondary or vocational education.

24 (d) The youth is participating in a program or activity
25 designed to promote employment or remove barriers to employment.

26 (e) The youth is employed for at least 80 hours per month.

27 (f) The youth is incapable of doing any part of the activities

1 in subdivisions (b) to (e) due to a medical condition. This
2 incapacity must be supported by regularly updated information.

3 (2) The department shall provide extended adoption assistance
4 for an adoptee in accordance with the state's approved title IV-E
5 plan.