

CHILD WELFARE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

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Senate Bill 973 (Substitute S-4)

Sponsor: Sen. Bruce Caswell

Committee: Appropriations

Complete to 12-9-14

A SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 973 (S-4) AS PASSED BY SENATE

Senate Bill 973 (S-4) would create the Child Welfare Partnership Council Act which would require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish and operate the Child Welfare Partnership Council. In addition, the act would require the Council to guide the ongoing planning, fiscal model, and continuous quality improvement of a state-administered performance-based child welfare system and provide an annual report to the Legislature concerning the implementation of such a state-administered system.

The Child Welfare Partnership Council Act would be repealed as of May 1, 2018.

Council Members' Appointment and Responsibilities

The Council shall consist of the following nine members:

- The Director of the DHS, the Director of the Department of Community Health, and the Director of the Department of Education, or their respective designees.
- One member representing private child welfare agencies appointed by the Governor from a list of 3 names submitted by the agencies.
- Three members representing the public, appointed by the Governor.
- One family court judge, appointed by the Governor.
- One county commissioner, county administrator, or court administrator, appointed by the Governor from a list of 3 names submitted by the Michigan Association of Counties.

Members of the Council shall serve 4 year terms or until a successor is appointed, or whichever is later. However, of the first members appointed to the Council, 2 members shall serve for 4 years, 2 shall serve for 3 years, and 2 shall serve for 2 years.

The three public members of the Council shall demonstrate knowledge of the foster care system, be representative of the state demographic composition, and be representative of any of the following: birth and foster parents, former foster care children, professional providers of foster care services, and volunteers in foster care services.

The Governor's appointment to the Council shall take effect unless disapproved by a majority vote of the Senate within 60 session days after the appointment. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson to serve for 1 year, after that time, the Council shall appoint the chairperson. A chairperson may not serve more than 3 consecutive 1-year terms. If a

vacancy occurs on the Council, the Governor shall appoint a new member for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

Council members would receive no compensation, but may receive reimbursement for necessary travel and expenses consistent with relevant statutes and the rules and procedures of the Civil Service and the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, subject to the availability of funding.

Members of the Council must perform their duties in a nonpartisan manner, in good faith, in the best interests of the children in the state, and with diligence and care. Members may not participate in making a decision, or influence the Council, on a matter in which the member is directly or indirectly interested.

An individual who is not of good moral character or has been convicted of, pled guilty or no contest to, or forfeited bail concerning a felony under state or federal law shall not be appointed or remain as a Council member.

Council Duties

The Council is directed to guide the ongoing planning, fiscal model, and continuous quality improvement of a state-administered performance-based child welfare system, based on data collected by the DHS and other relevant resources. The Council shall also provide input on decisions of how to reinvest any resulting savings from the system in an ongoing risk management pool, start-up costs, and performance incentives.

The Council may establish subcommittees of council members and advisory workgroups composed of public officers, public employees, legislators, or members of the public who are not members of the Council. Any recommendation proposed by a subcommittee or advisory workgroup may be adopted, rejected, or modified by the Council. Council meetings shall be held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

The Council shall provide a report containing nonbinding recommendations concerning the implementation of a state-administered performance-based child welfare system to the Department, the chairpersons of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, the chairpersons of the Senate and House Appropriations subcommittees on human services by December 1, 2015, and annually after that date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 973 (S-4) would have no significant fiscal impact on the state of Michigan or local units of government.

Fiscal Analyst: Viola Bay Wild

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.