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BILL



ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 616 (as introduced 10-5-17)
Sponsor: Senator Judy K. Emmons
Committee: Families, Seniors and Human Services

Date Completed: 10-30-17

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Child Protection Law to make certain confidential reports or records related to a child who was a member of a tribe available to a tribal entity or tribal social services representative acting on behalf of that child.

The Law requires certain people, such as medical professionals, teachers, and members of the clergy, to report to the Department of Health and Human Services if they have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect. In addition, any person who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect may report to the Department or a law enforcement agency. The Department is required to maintain a statewide electronic central registry to carry out the intent of the Law.

Unless the Department Director releases the information at his or her own initiative or upon written request, a written report, document, or photograph filed with the Department is a confidential record available only to certain individuals and entities, such as a police agency or law enforcement agency investigating a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect, a physician who is treating a child whom the physician reasonably suspects may be abused or neglected, or a grand jury that determines the information is necessary to conduct the grand jury's official business.

Under the bill, a confidential written report, confidential document, or confidential photograph also would be available to a tribal entity or tribal social services representative acting on behalf of a child who was a member of a tribe or was eligible for membership in a tribe, and who was the subject of a report or record under the Child Protection Law.

The bill would take effect 90 days after the date it was enacted.

MCL 722.627

Legislative Analyst: Nathan Leaman

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: John Maxwell

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