SENATE BILL NO. 983

June 24, 2020, Introduced by Senators MACGREGOR, STAMAS, SHIRKEY, VANDERWALL and SCHMIDT and referred to the Committee on Families, Seniors, and Veterans.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 204, entitled

"The children's ombudsman act,"

by amending section 3 (MCL 722.923), as amended by 2004 PA 560.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1   Sec. 3. (1) As a means of effecting changes in policy,

2   procedure, and legislation, educating the public, investigating and

3   reviewing actions of the department, child placing agencies, or

4   child caring institutions, monitoring and ensuring compliance with

5   relevant statutes, rules, and policies pertaining to children's

6   protective services and the placement, supervision, treatment, and

1 improving delivery of care of children in foster care and adoptive

2 homes, the children's ombudsman is established as an autonomous

3 entity ~~in the department of management and budget.~~**within the**

4 **legislative council.**

5   (2) The ~~governor~~ **legislative council** shall appoint an

6 individual as the ombudsman, with the advice and consent of the

7 senate. The individual ~~shall~~ **must** be qualified by training and

8 experience to perform the duties and exercise the powers of the

9 children's ombudsman and the children's ombudsman office as

10 provided in this act.

11   (3) The ~~governor~~ **legislative council** may remove the children's

12 ombudsman from office for cause that includes, but is not limited

13 to, incompetency to properly exercise duties, official misconduct,

14 habitual or willful neglect of duty, or other misfeasance or

15 malfeasance in connection with the operation of the office of the

16 children's ombudsman. The ~~governor~~ **legislative council** shall report

17 the reason for the removal to the legislature.

18   (4) The children's ombudsman serving in office on the

19 effective date of the amendatory act that ~~added~~ **amended** this

20 subsection shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~governor.~~**legislative**

21 **council.**