

HOUSE BILL NO. 4697

June 26, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Young, Meerman, Hope, MacDonell, Scott, McFall, Rheingans, Xiong, Koleszar, Longjohn, T. Carter, Tsernoglou, Wooden, Myers-Phillips, McKinney, Glanville, Grant, B. Carter, Dievendorf, Morgan, Price, Mentzer, O'Neal, Rogers, Pohutsky, Breen, Conlin and Neeley and referred to Committee on Families and Veterans.

A bill to amend 2008 PA 260, entitled
"Guardianship assistance act,"
by amending section 4 (MCL 722.874), as amended by 2023 PA 69.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 4. (1) Subject to subsection ~~(2)~~, **(3)**, a **prospective**
2 guardian ~~who meets all of the following criteria may receive be~~
3 **approved by the department for** guardianship assistance on behalf of
4 an eligible child **if the eligible child has resided with the**
5 **prospective guardian in the prospective guardian's residence for a**
6 **minimum of 6 months before the application for guardianship**

1 assistance is received by the department and either of the
 2 following criteria is met:

3 (a) The **prospective** guardian is the eligible child's relative.
 4 ~~or legal custodian.~~

5 (b) The **prospective** guardian is a licensed foster parent. ~~and~~
 6 ~~approved for guardianship assistance by the department. The~~
 7 ~~approval process must include criminal record checks and child~~
 8 ~~abuse and child neglect central registry checks on the guardian,~~
 9 ~~all successor guardians, and all adults living in the guardian's or~~
 10 ~~successor guardian's home as well as submission of the guardian's~~
 11 ~~or successor guardian's fingerprints to the department of state~~
 12 ~~police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a criminal~~
 13 ~~history check.~~

14 ~~(c) The eligible child has resided with the prospective~~
 15 ~~guardian in the prospective guardian's residence for a minimum of 6~~
 16 ~~months before the application for guardianship assistance is~~
 17 ~~received by the department.~~

18 (2) The approval process described under subsection (1) must
 19 include criminal record checks and child abuse and child neglect
 20 central registry checks on the prospective guardian, all successor
 21 guardians, and all adults living in the prospective guardian's or
 22 successor guardian's home as well as submission of the prospective
 23 guardian's or successor guardian's fingerprints to the department
 24 of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a
 25 criminal history check.

26 (3) ~~(2) Only a~~ **A** relative who is a licensed foster parent
 27 ~~earing~~ **cares** for a ~~an~~ **eligible title IV-E-funded** child who is
 28 ~~eligible to receive title IV-E-funded foster care payments in an~~
 29 **approved or licensed foster parent home** for 6 consecutive months

1 after **relative approval or** licensure ~~of the family~~ is eligible for
 2 federal funding under title IV-E for guardianship assistance **when**
 3 **the eligibility criteria are met.** A child who is not eligible for
 4 title IV-E funding who is placed with a **relative or a child placed**
 5 **with a** licensed foster parent, ~~related or unrelated,~~ **regardless of**
 6 **title IV-E eligibility,** and who meets the requirements of section
 7 3(1) (a) to (e) may be eligible for state-funded guardianship
 8 assistance.

9 (4) ~~(3)~~ If a child is eligible for title IV-E-funded
 10 guardianship assistance under section 3 but has a sibling who is
 11 not eligible under section 3, both of the following apply:

12 (a) The child and any of the child's siblings may be placed in
 13 the same relative guardianship arrangement in accordance with
 14 chapter XIIIA of the probate code, MCL 712A.1 to 712A.32, another
 15 state's law or code, or tribal law or code, if the department and
 16 the relative agree on the appropriateness of the arrangement for
 17 the sibling.

18 (b) Title IV-E-funded relative guardianship assistance
 19 payments may be paid on behalf of each sibling placed in accordance
 20 with this subsection.

21 (5) ~~(4)~~ A successor guardian may receive guardianship
 22 assistance payments if the eligibility criteria set forth in
 23 section 3 are met.

24 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
 25 unless Senate Bill No. ____ (request no. S02991'25) or House Bill
 26 No. 4696 (request no. H02991'25) of the 103rd Legislature is
 27 enacted into law.