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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Children and Families

From: Renae Jefferies, Assistant Revisor

Date: January 31, 2012

Subject: HB 2542

HB 2542 concerns citizen review boards, their powers, duties and appointment of the board members.

Section 1, concerns the family and children investment fund within the state treasury. This fund helps to pay the costs incurred by the citizen review boards. On page 2, a technical amendment was made to give the correct cite for the statute that established the citizen review boards. 2011 Supp. 38-2207.

Section 2, starting on page 3 sets out the definitions used in the Revised Code for Care of Children. On page 4, the definition of citizen review board was changed to reflect the change that the Governor and the Secretary of SRS would appoint the volunteer members of the citizen review board.

Section 3, page 8 amends subsection (b) to require the chief judge of each judicial district to send a list of 10 volunteers to the Governor and the Secretary of SRS from which the Governor and the Secretary appoint the members of such judicial district's citizen review board members. For large districts, the Governor shall appoint four members and the Secretary three. For small districts, the Governor shall appoint 2 members and the Secretary one member. Additionally, should a vacancy occur during a members term, a replacement shall be appointed in the same manner as the vacating member.

Section 4, on page 9, allows the members of the citizen review board to exchange information with other officials involved in a child in need of care case.

Section 5, allows the citizen review board members to have access to law enforcement records concerning a case the board is reviewing.

Section 6, on page 11, requires that a court consider the recommendations of the citizen review board prior to entering an order in a case. On page 12, lines 21 and 32 and on page 13 line 8, technical changes were made changing 10 days to 14 to reconcile the statute with current law.

Section 7, on page 15, requires the citizen review board to review, hear and make recommendations to the court in a permanency hearing before the court.

If enacted, the bill would take effect upon publication in the statute book.