

HB 574 -- Child Abuse and Neglect

Sponsor: Stevenson

This bill changes the laws regarding reports of child abuse and neglect which resulted in the termination of parental rights. The Family Support Division of the Department of Social Services is required to determine if an applicant for state or federal funds for providing child care services in their home has had their parental rights terminated due to a finding of child abuse or neglect and to deny their application.

The Children's Division of the department is authorized to release to certain individuals, businesses, or agencies only information on substantiated reports which resulted in the termination of the parental rights of that person. Currently, all substantiated reports can be provided. A court can authorize the disclosure of information regarding substantiated reports not resulting in the termination of parental rights if it determines that the release of the information is required because of the severity of the allegations, the sufficiency of evidence for substantiation, and the immediate risk to the safety of children if the person's employment puts him or her in contact with children.