

HB 1989 -- Termination of Parental Rights

Sponsor: Baker (123)

This bill revises the definition of "parent" as it relates to parental rights in Chapters 210 and 211, RSMo, as a birth parent or parents of the child, including a putative father of the child and the husband of a birth mother at the time the child was conceived, or a parent or parents of a child by adoption. The bill specifies that a putative father of a child will have no legal relationship unless he has acknowledged the child on his own by affirmatively asserting his paternity.

Currently, a juvenile court cannot place any child with a parent if the parent or any person residing with the parent is found guilty of or pled guilty to child abuse or a felony sexual offense involving a child. The bill adds the conviction or a guilty plea for the same offenses committed in another state to the list of violations preventing the placement of a child. A juvenile officer must file a petition to terminate the parental rights of the child's parents for any of these offenses.

The age for which the juvenile court does not have jurisdiction over a child who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal traffic ordinance or regulation is lowered from 15 years and six months to 15 years of age.

A peace officer of this state, upon the written request by another peace officer of this state or any other state, the federal government, or a prosecuting attorney of this state or any other state, is allowed to disclose records, information, or reports concerning a person younger than 17 years of age in an investigation of a matter within his or her jurisdiction.

The bill changes the baseline year from 1997 to 2007 for the calculation of the maintenance of effort funding for each county in every circuit in which a juvenile court employee becomes a state employee.