## FIRST REGULAR SESSION SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

## HOUSE BILL NO. 260

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Seniors, Families and Children, April 27, 2017, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

0573S.05C

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 210.025, 210.110, 210.152, 210.565, and 589.675, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to the protection of certain vulnerable persons, with an existing penalty provision and an emergency clause for certain sections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 210.025, 210.110, 210.152, 210.565, and 589.675, 2 RSMo, are repealed and six new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as 3 sections 210.025, 210.110, 210.152, 210.565, 589.664, and 589.675, to read as 4 follows:

210.025. 1. An applicant child care provider; persons employed by the applicant child care provider for compensation, including 2 contract employees or self-employed individuals; individuals or 3 4 volunteers whose activities involve the care or supervision of children  $\mathbf{5}$ for the applicant child care provider or unsupervised access to children 6 who are cared for or supervised by the applicant child care provider; 7 or individuals residing in the applicant's family child care home who 8 are age seventeen or older shall be required to submit to a criminal background check under section 43.540 and a check of the central 9 10 registry for child abuse established in section 210.145 in order for the 11 **applicant** to qualify for receipt of state or federal funds for providing child-care 12 services [in the home] either by direct payment or through reimbursement to a 13 child-care beneficiary, an applicant and any person over the age of seventeen

who is living in the applicant's home shall be required to submit to a criminal background check pursuant to section 43.540 and a check of the central registry for child abuse established in section 210.145. Effective January 1, 2001, the requirements of this subsection or subsection 2 of this section shall be satisfied through registration with the family care safety registry established in sections 210.900 to 210.936]. Any costs associated with such checks shall be paid by the applicant.

212. Upon receipt of an application for state or federal funds for providing 22child-care services in the home, the [family support] children's division shall: 23(1) Determine if a finding of child abuse or neglect by probable cause prior 24to August 28, 2004, or by a preponderance of the evidence after August 28, 2004, 25involving the applicant or any person over the age of seventeen who is living in 26the applicant's home has been recorded pursuant to section 210.145 or 210.221; 27(2) Determine if the applicant or any person over the age of seventeen who 28is living in the applicant's home has been refused licensure or has experienced 29licensure suspension or revocation pursuant to section 210.221 or 210.496; and 30 (3) Upon initial application, require the applicant to submit to fingerprinting and request a criminal background check of the applicant and any 31 32person over the age of seventeen who is living in the applicant's home pursuant 33to section 43.540 and section 210.487, and inquire of the applicant whether any 34children less than seventeen years of age residing in the applicant's home have ever been certified as an adult and convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere 3536 to any crime.

37 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of this section, upon 38 completion of the background checks in subsection 2 of this section, an applicant 39 shall be denied state or federal funds for providing child care if such applicant, 40 any person over the age of seventeen who is living in the applicant's home, and 41 any child less than seventeen years of age who is living in the applicant's home 42 and who the division has determined has been certified as an adult for the 43 commission of a crime:

44 (1) Has had a finding of child abuse or neglect by probable cause prior to
45 August 28, 2004, or by a preponderance of the evidence after August 28, 2004,
46 pursuant to section 210.145 or section 210.152;

47 (2) Has been refused licensure or has experienced licensure suspension48 or revocation pursuant to section 210.496;

49 (3) Has pled guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any felony

50for an offense against the person as defined by chapter 565, or any other offense against the person involving the endangerment of a child as prescribed by law; 51of any misdemeanor or felony for a sexual offense as defined by chapter 566; of 52any misdemeanor or felony for an offense against the family as defined in chapter 53568, with the exception of the sale of fireworks, as defined in section 320.110, to 54a child under the age of eighteen; of any misdemeanor or felony for pornography 55or related offense as defined by chapter 573; or of any similar crime in any 56federal, state, municipal or other court of similar jurisdiction of which the 57director has knowledge or any offenses or reports which will disqualify an 58applicant from receiving state or federal funds. 59

4. An applicant shall be given an opportunity by the division to offer any extenuating or mitigating circumstances regarding the findings, refusals or violations against such applicant or any person over the age of seventeen or less than seventeen who is living in the applicant's home listed in subsection 2 of this section. Such extenuating and mitigating circumstances may be considered by the division in its determination of whether to permit such applicant to receive state or federal funds for providing child care in the home.

5. An applicant who has been denied state or federal funds for providing child care in the home may appeal such denial decision in accordance with the provisions of section 208.080.

6. If an applicant is denied state or federal funds for providing child care in the home based on the background check results for any person over the age of seventeen who is living in the applicant's home, the applicant shall not apply for such funds until such person is no longer living in the applicant's home.

747. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective 75only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, 76 if applicable, section 536.028. All rulemaking authority delegated prior to August 7728, 1999, is of no force and effect and repealed. Nothing in this section shall be 78 interpreted to repeal or affect the validity of any rule filed or adopted prior to 79August 28, 1999, if it fully complied with all applicable provisions of law. This 80 81 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the 82 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date 83 or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 84 28, 1999, shall be invalid and void. 85

210.110. As used in sections 210.109 to 210.165, and sections 210.180 to 2 210.183, the following terms mean:

3 (1) "Abuse", any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse 4 inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the 5 child's care, custody, and control, except that discipline including spanking, 6 administered in a reasonable manner, shall not be construed to be 7 abuse. Victims of abuse shall also include any victims of sex trafficking 8 or severe forms of trafficking as those terms are defined in 22 U.S.C. 78 9 Section 7102(9)-(10);

10 (2) "Assessment and treatment services for children under ten years old", an approach to be developed by the children's division which will recognize and 11 treat the specific needs of at-risk and abused or neglected children under the age 1213of ten. The developmental and medical assessment may be a broad physical, developmental, and mental health screening to be completed within thirty days 14 15of a child's entry into custody and every six months thereafter as long as the child remains in care. Screenings may be offered at a centralized location and include, 16 17at a minimum, the following:

(a) Complete physical to be performed by a pediatrician familiar with theeffects of abuse and neglect on young children;

20 (b) Developmental, behavioral, and emotional screening in addition to early periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services, including a core set 21of standardized and recognized instruments as well as interviews with the child 2223and appropriate caregivers. The screening battery may be performed by a 24licensed mental health professional familiar with the effects of abuse and neglect on young children, who will then serve as the liaison between all service 2526providers in ensuring that needed services are provided. Such treatment services may include in-home services, out-of-home placement, intensive twenty-four-hour 2728treatment services, family counseling, parenting training and other best practices. Children whose screenings indicate an area of concern may complete a 29 30 comprehensive, in-depth health, psychodiagnostic, or developmental assessment within sixty days of entry into custody; 31

32 (3) "Central registry", a registry of persons where the division has found 33 probable cause to believe prior to August 28, 2004, or by a preponderance of the 34 evidence after August 28, 2004, or a court has substantiated through court 35 adjudication that the individual has committed child abuse or neglect or the 36 person has pled guilty or has been found guilty of a crime pursuant to section

37 565.020, 565.021, 565.023, 565.024, 565.050, 566.030, 566.060, or 567.050 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, or any other crime pursuant to 38 chapter 566 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age and the 39 perpetrator is twenty-one years of age or older, a crime under section 568.020, 40 568.030, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060, 568.080, 568.090, 573.023, 573.025, 573.035, 41 573.037, 573.040, 573.200, or 573.205, or an attempt to commit any such 42 crimes. Any persons placed on the registry prior to August 28, 2004, shall remain 43on the registry for the duration of time required by section 210.152; 44

45 (4) "Child", any person, regardless of physical or mental condition, under46 eighteen years of age;

(5) "Children's services providers and agencies", any public, quasi-public, or private entity with the appropriate and relevant training and expertise in delivering services to children and their families as determined by the children's division, and capable of providing direct services and other family services for children in the custody of the children's division or any such entities or agencies that are receiving state moneys for such services;

(6) "Director", the director of the Missouri children's division within thedepartment of social services;

55 (7) "Division", the Missouri children's division within the department of 56 social services;

57 (8) "Family assessment and services", an approach to be developed by the 58 children's division which will provide for a prompt assessment of a child who has 59 been reported to the division as a victim of abuse or neglect by a person 60 responsible for that child's care, custody or control and of that child's family, 61 including risk of abuse and neglect and, if necessary, the provision of community-62 based services to reduce the risk and support the family;

(9) "Family support team meeting" or "team meeting", a meeting convened by the division or children's services provider in behalf of the family and/or child for the purpose of determining service and treatment needs, determining the need for placement and developing a plan for reunification or other permanency options, determining the appropriate placement of the child, evaluating case progress, and establishing and revising the case plan;

(10) "Investigation", the collection of physical and verbal evidence todetermine if a child has been abused or neglected;

(11) "Jail or detention center personnel", employees and volunteers
working in any premises or institution where incarceration, evaluation, care,

treatment or rehabilitation is provided to persons who are being held undercustody of the law;

(12) "Neglect", failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition or medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for the child's well-being. Victims of neglect shall also include any victims of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as those terms are defined in 22 U.S.C. 78 Section 7102(9)-(10);

81 (13) "Preponderance of the evidence", that degree of evidence that is of 82 greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in 83 opposition to it or evidence which as a whole shows the fact to be proved to be 84 more probable than not;

(14) "Probable cause", available facts when viewed in the light of
surrounding circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe a
child was abused or neglected;

88 (15) "Report", the communication of an allegation of child abuse or neglect
89 to the division pursuant to section 210.115;

90 (16) "Those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child",

91 [those included but not limited to] includes, but is not limited to:

92 (a) The parents or [guardian] legal guardians of a child[,];

93 (b) Other members of the child's household[, or];

94 (c) Those exercising supervision over a child for any part of a twenty-four95 hour day[. Those responsible for the care, custody and control shall also include];
96 (d) Any [adult] person who[,] has access to the child based on
97 relationship to the parents of the child[,] or members of the child's household or
98 the family[, has access to the child]; or

99 (e) Any person who takes control of the child by deception, force,
100 or coercion.

210.152. 1. All identifying information, including telephone reports 2 reported pursuant to section 210.145, relating to reports of abuse or neglect 3 received by the division shall be retained by the division and removed from the 4 records of the division as follows:

5 (1) For investigation reports contained in the central registry, identifying
6 information shall be retained by the division;

7 (2) (a) For investigation reports initiated against a person required to 8 report pursuant to section 210.115, where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect

9 is found by the division and where the division determines the allegation of abuse
10 or neglect was made maliciously, for purposes of harassment or in retaliation for
11 the filing of a report by a person required to report, identifying information shall
12 be expunged by the division within forty-five days from the conclusion of the
13 investigation;

14 (b) For investigation reports, where insufficient evidence of abuse or 15 neglect is found by the division and where the division determines the allegation 16 of abuse or neglect was made maliciously, for purposes of harassment or in 17 retaliation for the filing of a report, identifying information shall be expunged by 18 the division within forty-five days from the conclusion of the investigation;

19 (c) For investigation reports initiated by a person required to report under 20section 210.115, where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the 21division, identifying information shall be retained for five years from the conclusion of the investigation. For all other investigation reports where 2223insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division, identifying information shall be retained for two years from the conclusion of the 2425investigation. Such reports shall include any exculpatory evidence known by the division, including exculpatory evidence obtained after the closing of the case. At 2627the end of such time period, the identifying information shall be removed from the records of the division and destroyed; 28

29(d) For investigation reports where the identification of the specific perpetrator or perpetrators can not be substantiated and the 30 31division has specific evidence to determine that a child was abused or neglected, the division shall retain the report and all identifying 32information but shall not place an unknown perpetrator on the central 33 34registry. The division shall retain all identifying information for the 35 purpose of utilizing such information in subsequent investigations or family assessments of the same child, the child's family, or members of 36 37the child's household. The division shall retain and disclose information and findings in the same manner as the division retains 38 and discloses family assessments. If the division made a finding of 39 abuse or neglect against an unknown perpetrator prior to August 28, 40 2017, the division shall remove the unknown perpetrator from the 41 central registry but shall retain and utilize all identifying information 4243as otherwise provided in this section;

45 approach, identifying information shall be retained by the division;

46 (4) For reports in which the division is unable to locate the child alleged
47 to have been abused or neglected, identifying information shall be retained for ten
48 years from the date of the report and then shall be removed from the records of
49 the division.

2. Within ninety days, or within one hundred twenty days in cases involving sexual abuse, or until the division's investigation is complete in cases involving a child fatality or near-fatality, after receipt of a report of abuse or neglect that is investigated, the alleged perpetrator named in the report and the parents of the child named in the report, if the alleged perpetrator is not a parent, shall be notified in writing of any determination made by the division based on the investigation. The notice shall advise either:

57(1) That the division has determined by a probable cause finding prior to August 28, 2004, or by a preponderance of the evidence after August 28, 2004, 5859that abuse or neglect exists and that the division shall retain all identifying information regarding the abuse or neglect; that such information shall remain 60 61 confidential and will not be released except to law enforcement agencies, 62 prosecuting or circuit attorneys, or as provided in section 210.150; that the 63 alleged perpetrator has sixty days from the date of receipt of the notice to seek reversal of the division's determination through a review by the child abuse and 64 65neglect review board as provided in subsection 4 of this section; [or]

66 (2) That the division has not made a probable cause finding or determined 67 by a preponderance of the evidence that abuse or neglect exists; or

68 (3) The division has been unable to determine the identity of the 69 perpetrator of the abuse or neglect. The notice shall also inform the 70 child's parents and legal guardian that the division shall retain, utilize, 71 and disclose all information and findings as provided in family 72 assessment and services cases.

733. The children's division may reopen a case for review [at the request of 74the alleged perpetrator, the alleged victim, or the office of the child advocate if new, specific, and credible evidence is obtained [that the division's decision was 75based on fraud or misrepresentation of material facts relevant to the division's 76 decision and there is credible evidence that absent such fraud or 77misrepresentation the division's decision would have been different. If the 78 79 alleged victim is under the age of eighteen, the request for review may be made by the alleged victim's parent, legal custodian, or legal guardian. All requests to 80

81 reopen an investigation for review shall be made within a reasonable time and 82 not more than one year after the children's division made its decision. The division shall not reopen a case for review based on any information which the 83 person requesting the review knew, should have known, or could by the exercise 84 of reasonable care have known before the date of the division's final decision in 85 the case, unless the person requesting the review shows by a preponderance of 86 the evidence that he or she could not have provided such information to the 87 division before the date of the division's final decision in the case. Any person, 88 89 other than the office of the child advocate, who makes a request to reopen a case for review based on facts which the person knows to be false or misleading or who 90 91 acts in bad faith or with the intent to harass the alleged victim or perpetrator 92shall not have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, for providing the 93 information and requesting that the division reopen the investigation. Any person who makes a request to reopen an investigation based on facts which the 94 95person knows to be false shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The children's division shall not reopen an investigation under any circumstances while the case 96 97 is pending before a court of this state nor when a court has entered a final judgment after de novo judicial review pursuant to this section]. 98

99 4. Any person named in an investigation as a perpetrator who is 100 aggrieved by a determination of abuse or neglect by the division as provided in 101 this section may seek an administrative review by the child abuse and neglect review board pursuant to the provisions of section 210.153. Such request for 102103 review shall be made within sixty days of notification of the division's decision 104 under this section. In those cases where criminal charges arising out of facts of 105the investigation are pending, the request for review shall be made within sixty 106 days from the court's final disposition or dismissal of the charges.

5. In any such action for administrative review, the child abuse and neglect review board shall sustain the division's determination if such determination was supported by evidence of probable cause prior to August 28, 2004, or is supported by a preponderance of the evidence after August 28, 2004, and is not against the weight of such evidence. The child abuse and neglect review board hearing shall be closed to all persons except the parties, their attorneys and those persons providing testimony on behalf of the parties.

6. If the alleged perpetrator is aggrieved by the decision of the child abuse and neglect review board, the alleged perpetrator may seek de novo judicial review in the circuit court in the county in which the alleged perpetrator resides SCS HCS HB 260

117 and in circuits with split venue, in the venue in which the alleged perpetrator 118 resides, or in Cole County. If the alleged perpetrator is not a resident of the state, proper venue shall be in Cole County. The case may be assigned to the 119 family court division where such a division has been established. The request for 120a judicial review shall be made within sixty days of notification of the decision of 121122the child abuse and neglect review board decision. In reviewing such decisions, 123the circuit court shall provide the alleged perpetrator the opportunity to appear 124and present testimony. The alleged perpetrator may subpoena any witnesses 125except the alleged victim or the reporter. However, the circuit court shall have 126the discretion to allow the parties to submit the case upon a stipulated record.

127 7. In any such action for administrative review, the child abuse and 128 neglect review board shall notify the child or the parent, guardian or legal 129 representative of the child that a review has been requested.

210.565. 1. Whenever a child is placed in a foster home and the court has  $\mathbf{2}$ determined pursuant to subsection 4 of this section that foster home placement with relatives is not contrary to the best interest of the child, the children's 3 4 division shall give foster home placement to relatives of the child. Notwithstanding any rule of the division to the contrary, the children's 5division shall make diligent efforts to locate the grandparents of the child and 6 determine whether they wish to be considered for placement of the 78 child. Grandparents who request consideration shall be given preference and first consideration for foster home placement of the child. If more than one 9 10 grandparent requests consideration, the family support team shall make recommendations to the juvenile or family court about which grandparent should 11 12be considered for placement.

As used in this section, the term "relative" means a grandparent or any
 other person related to another by blood or affinity [within the third degree] or
 a person who is not so related to the child but has a close relationship
 with the child or the child's family. The status of a grandparent shall not
 be affected by the death or the dissolution of the marriage of a son or daughter.
 3. The following shall be the order or preference for placement of a child
 under this section:

20 (1) Grandparents [and];

(2) Relatives related by blood or affinity within the third degree;
[(2) A trusted adult that has a preexisting relationship with the child,
such as a godparent, teacher, neighbor, or fellow parishioner who voluntarily

24 agrees to care for the child; and]

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(3) Other relatives; and

26 (4) Any foster parent who is currently licensed and capable of accepting27 placement of the child.

284. The preference for placement and first consideration for grandparents 29or preference for placement with other relatives created by this section shall only apply where the court finds that placement with such grandparents or other 30 relatives is not contrary to the best interest of the child considering all 31 32circumstances. If the court finds that it is contrary to the best interest of a child 33 to be placed with grandparents or other relatives, the court shall make specific 34findings on the record detailing the reasons why the best interests of the child 35 necessitate placement of the child with persons other than grandparents or other 36 relatives.

5. Recognizing the critical nature of sibling bonds for children, the children's division shall make reasonable efforts to place siblings in the same foster care, kinship, guardianship, or adoptive placement, unless doing so would be contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings. If siblings are not placed together, the children's division shall make reasonable efforts to provide frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction between the siblings, unless this interaction would be contrary to a sibling's safety or well-being.

6. The age of the child's grandparent or other relative shall not be the only factor that the children's division takes into consideration when it makes placement decisions and recommendations to the court about placing the child with such grandparent or other relative.

48 7. For any Native American child placed in protective custody, the
49 children's division shall comply with the placement requirements set forth in 25
50 U.S.C. Section 1915.

8. A grandparent or other relative may, on a case-by-case basis, have standards for licensure not related to safety waived for specific children in care that would otherwise impede licensing of the grandparent's or relative's home. In addition, any person receiving a preference may be licensed in an expedited manner if a child is placed under such person's care.

56 9. The guardian ad litem shall ascertain the child's wishes and feelings 57 about his or her placement by conducting an interview or interviews with the 58 child, if appropriate based on the child's age and maturity level, which shall be 59 considered as a factor in placement decisions and recommendations, but shall not

60 supersede the preference for relative placement created by this section or be

61 contrary to the child's best interests.

589.664. 1. If an individual is a participant in the address confidentiality program under section 589.663, no person or entity shall be compelled to disclose the participant's actual address during the discovery phase of or during a proceeding before a court or other tribunal unless the court or tribunal first finds, on the record, that:

6 (1) There is a reasonable belief that the address is needed to 7 obtain information or evidence without which the investigation, 8 prosecution, or litigation cannot proceed; and

9 (2) There is no other practicable way of obtaining the 10 information or evidence.

2. The court shall first provide the program participant and the
 secretary of state notice that address disclosure is sought.

3. The program participant shall have an opportunity to present evidence regarding the potential harm to the safety of the program participant if the address is disclosed. In determining whether to compel disclosure, the court shall consider whether the potential harm to the safety of the participant is outweighed by the interest in disclosure.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no court shall order an individual who has had their application to the program accepted by the secretary to disclose his or her actual address or the location of his or her residence without giving the secretary proper notice. The secretary shall have the right to intervene in any civil proceeding in which a court is considering ordering a participant to disclose his or her actual address.

5. Disclosure of a participant's actual address under this section shall be limited under the terms of the order to ensure that the disclosure and dissemination of the actual address will be no greater than necessary for the purposes of the investigation, prosecution, or litigation.

6. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the court are or any other tribunal from issuing a protective order to prevent the disclosure of information, other than the participant's actual address, that could reasonably lead to the discovery of the participant's location.

589.675. If the secretary deems it appropriate, the secretary shall make a program participant's address and mailing address available for inspection or  $\mathbf{2}$ 3 copying under the following circumstances:

4 (1) To a person identified in a court order, upon the secretary's receipt of such court order [that specifically orders the disclosure of a particular program  $\mathbf{5}$ participant's address and mailing address and the reasons stated for the 6 disclosure] in compliance with section 589.664; or 7

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(2) If the certification has been cancelled because the applicant or program participant violated subdivision (2) of section 589.663. 9

Section B. Because immediate action is necessary to provide for the safety and privacy of certain vulnerable persons in Missouri, the repeal and reenactment  $\mathbf{2}$ 3 of sections 210.110, 210.152, and 589.675, and the enactment of section 589.664 4 of this act is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act 56 within the meaning of the constitution, and the repeal and reenactment of sections 210.110, 210.152, and 589.675, and the enactment of section 589.664 of 7 8 this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.