

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-first Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2013

# HOUSE BILL 2144

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 8-800, 8-802, 8-804 AND 13-3620, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;  
AMENDING LAWS 2012, CHAPTER 50, SECTION 1; RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 8-800, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 8-800. Purpose of child protective services

5 The primary ~~purposes~~ PURPOSE of child protective services ~~are IS~~ to  
6 protect children ~~by investigating allegations of abuse and neglect, promoting~~  
7 ~~the well-being of the child in a permanent home and coordinating services to~~  
8 ~~strengthen the family and prevent, intervene in and treat abuse and neglect~~  
9 ~~of children.~~ TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SHALL DO THE  
10 FOLLOWING:

11 1. INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

12 2. ASSESS, PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE SAFETY OF A CHILD IN A SAFE AND  
13 STABLE FAMILY OR OTHER APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT.

14 3. WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE OFFICE OF CHILD  
15 WELFARE INVESTIGATIONS.

16 4. WITHOUT COMPROMISING CHILD SAFETY, COORDINATE SERVICES TO ACHIEVE  
17 PERMANENCY ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD, STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY AND ASSIST IN THE  
18 PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN.

19 Sec. 2. Section 8-802, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

20 8-802. Child protective services worker; fingerprint clearance  
21 cards; powers and duties; alteration of files;  
22 violation; classification

23 A. The department of economic security shall employ child protective  
24 services workers. All persons who are employed as child protective services  
25 workers shall have a valid fingerprint clearance card that is issued pursuant  
26 to section 41-1758.07 or shall apply for a fingerprint clearance card within  
27 seven working days of employment. A child protective services worker shall  
28 certify on forms that are provided by the department of economic security and  
29 that are notarized whether the worker is awaiting trial on or has ever been  
30 convicted of any of the criminal offenses listed in section 41-1758.07,  
31 subsections B and C in this state or similar offenses in another state or  
32 jurisdiction.

33 B. The department may cooperate with county agencies and community  
34 social services agencies to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

35 C. ~~A~~ Child protective services ~~worker~~ shall:

36 1. Promote the safety and protection of children.

37 2. Accept, screen and assess reports of abuse or neglect:

38 (a) Pursuant to section 8-817.

39 (b) In level I residential treatment centers or in level II or level  
40 III behavioral health residential agencies that are licensed by the  
41 department of health services.

1           3. Receive reports of dependent, abused or abandoned children and be  
2 prepared to provide temporary foster care for these children on a twenty-four  
3 hour basis.

4           4. Receive from any source oral or written information regarding a  
5 child who may be in need of protective services. A worker shall not  
6 interview a child without the prior written consent of the parent, guardian  
7 or custodian of the child unless either:

8           (a) The child initiates contact with the worker.

9           (b) The child who is interviewed is the subject of or is the sibling  
10 of or living with the child who is the subject of an abuse or abandonment  
11 investigation pursuant to paragraph 5, subdivision (b) of this subsection.

12           (c) The interview is conducted pursuant to the terms of the protocols  
13 established pursuant to section 8-817.

14           5. After the receipt of any report or information pursuant to  
15 paragraph 2, 3 or 4 of this subsection, immediately do both of the following:

16           (a) Notify the municipal or county law enforcement agency.

17           (b) Make a prompt and thorough investigation. ~~of~~ AN INVESTIGATION  
18 MUST DETERMINE the nature, extent and cause of any condition that would tend  
19 to support or refute the allegation that the child should be adjudicated  
20 dependent and the name, age and condition of other children in the home. A  
21 criminal conduct allegation shall be investigated according to the protocols  
22 established pursuant to section 8-817 BY THE OFFICE OF CHILD WELFARE  
23 INVESTIGATIONS with the appropriate municipal or county law enforcement  
24 agency as provided in section 8-817.

25           6. Take a child into temporary custody as provided in section 8-821.  
26 Law enforcement officers shall cooperate with the department to remove a  
27 child from the custody of the child's parents, guardian or custodian when  
28 necessary.

29           7. After investigation, evaluate conditions created by the parents,  
30 guardian or custodian that would support or refute the allegation that the  
31 child should be adjudicated dependent. The child protective services worker  
32 shall then determine whether any child is in need of protective services.

33           8. Offer to the family of any child who is found to be a child in need  
34 of protective services those services that are designed to correct unresolved  
35 problems that would indicate a reason to adjudicate the child dependent.

36           9. Submit a written report of the worker's investigation to:

37           (a) The department's case management information system within a  
38 reasonable time period that does not exceed forty-five days after receipt of  
39 the initial information except as provided in section 8-811. If the  
40 investigation involves allegations regarding a child who at the time of the  
41 alleged incident was in the custody of a child welfare agency licensed by the  
42 department of economic security under this title, a copy of the report and  
43 any additional investigative or other related reports shall be provided to  
44 the board of directors of the agency or to the administrative head of the  
45 agency unless the incident is alleged to have been committed by the person.

1 The department shall excise all information with regard to the identity of  
2 the source of the reports.

3 (b) The appropriate court forty-eight hours before a dependency  
4 hearing pursuant to a petition of dependency or within twenty-one days after  
5 a petition of dependency is filed, whichever is earlier. On receipt of the  
6 report the court shall make the report available to all parties and counsel.

7 10. Accept a child into voluntary placement pursuant to section 8-806.

8 11. Make a good faith effort to promptly obtain and abide by court  
9 orders that restrict or deny custody, visitation or contact by a parent or  
10 other person in the home with the child. As part of the good faith effort,  
11 the child protective services worker shall ask the parent, guardian or  
12 custodian under investigation if a current court order exists.

13 D. A child shall not remain in temporary custody for a period  
14 exceeding seventy-two hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays,  
15 unless a dependency petition is filed. If a petition is not filed and the  
16 child is released to the child's parent, guardian or custodian, the worker  
17 shall file a report of removal with the central registry within seventy-two  
18 hours of the child's release. The report shall include:

19 1. The dates of previous referrals, investigations or temporary  
20 custody.

21 2. The dates on which other children in the family have been taken  
22 into temporary custody.

23 E. The department shall provide child protective services workers who  
24 investigate allegations of abuse and neglect with training in forensic  
25 interviewing and processes, the protocols established pursuant to section  
26 8-817 and relevant law enforcement procedures. All child protective services  
27 workers shall be trained in their duty to protect the legal rights of  
28 children and families from the time of the initial contact through treatment.  
29 The training shall include knowledge of a child's rights as a victim of  
30 crime. The training for child protective services workers shall also include  
31 instruction on the legal rights of parents and the requirements for legal  
32 search and seizure by law enforcement officers.

33 F. In conducting an investigation pursuant to this section, if the  
34 worker is made aware that an allegation of abuse or neglect may also have  
35 been made in another state, the worker shall contact the appropriate agency  
36 in that state to attempt to determine the outcome of any investigation of  
37 that allegation.

38 G. Any person who alters a client file for the purpose of fraud or  
39 misrepresentation is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor.

40 H. THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY MAY DEVELOP AN ALTERNATIVE  
41 RESPONSE FOR DESIGNATED REPORTS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES TO  
42 IMPLEMENT THE ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE FOR DESIGNATED REPORTS.

1           Sec. 3. Section 8-804, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:  
2           8-804. Central registry; notification

3           A. The department of economic security shall maintain a central  
4 registry of reports of child abuse and neglect that are substantiated and the  
5 outcome of the investigation of these reports made under this article. A  
6 finding made by a court pursuant to section 8-844, subsection C that a child  
7 is dependent based on an allegation of abuse or neglect shall be recorded as  
8 a substantiated finding of abuse or neglect. The department shall  
9 incorporate duplicate reports on the same incident in the original report and  
10 shall not classify duplicate reports as new reports.

11           B. The department shall conduct central registry background checks and  
12 shall use the information contained in the central registry only for the  
13 following purposes:

14           1. As a factor to determine qualifications for foster home licensing,  
15 adoptive parent certification, child care home certification, registration of  
16 unregulated child care homes with the child care resource and referral  
17 system, and home and community based services certification for services to  
18 children or vulnerable adults.

19           2. As a factor to determine qualifications for persons who are  
20 employed or who are applying for employment with this state in positions that  
21 provide direct service to children or vulnerable adults.

22           3. As a factor to determine qualifications for positions that provide  
23 direct service to children or vulnerable adults for:

24           (a) Any person who applies for a contract with this state and that  
25 person's employees.

26           (b) All employees of a contractor.

27           (c) A subcontractor of a contractor and the subcontractor's employees.

28           (d) Prospective employees of the contractor or subcontractor at the  
29 request of the prospective employer.

30           4. Beginning August 1, 2013, to provide information, using the  
31 department of economic security's contracting requirements, to licensees that  
32 do not contract with this state regarding persons who are employed or seeking  
33 employment to provide direct services to children pursuant to title 36,  
34 chapter 7.1.

35           5. To identify and review reports concerning individual children and  
36 families, in order to facilitate the assessment of safety and risk.

37           6. To determine the nature and scope of child abuse and neglect in  
38 this state and to provide statewide statistical and demographic information  
39 concerning trends in child abuse and neglect.

40           7. To allow comparisons of this state's statistical data with national  
41 data.

42           8. To comply with section 8-804.01, subsection B.

43           C. Beginning August 1, 2013, licensees that do not contract with the  
44 state and that employ persons who provide direct services to children  
45 pursuant to title 36, chapter 7.1 must submit to the department of economic

1 security in a manner prescribed by the department of economic security  
2 information necessary to conduct central registry background checks. The  
3 department of health services shall verify whether licensees, pursuant to  
4 title 36, chapter 7.1, have complied with the requirements of this subsection  
5 and any rules adopted by the department of health services to implement this  
6 subsection.

7 D. If the department received a report before September 1, 1999 and  
8 determined that the report was substantiated, the department shall maintain  
9 the report in the central registry until eighteen years from the child  
10 victim's date of birth.

11 E. If the department received a report on or after September 1, 1999  
12 and determined that the report was substantiated, the department shall  
13 maintain the report in the central registry for NOT MORE THAN twenty-five  
14 years after the date of the report. IF THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS REPORTS ON  
15 THE CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
16 ADOPT RULES TO DESIGNATE THE LENGTH OF TIME IT MUST MAINTAIN THOSE REPORTS ON  
17 THE CENTRAL REGISTRY.

18 F. The department shall annually purge reports and investigative  
19 outcomes received pursuant to the time frames prescribed in subsections D and  
20 E of this section.

21 G. Any person who was the subject of a child protective services  
22 investigation may request confirmation that the department has purged  
23 information about the person pursuant to subsection F of this section. On  
24 receipt of this request, the department shall provide the person with written  
25 confirmation that the department has no record containing identifying  
26 information about that person.

27 H. The department of economic security shall notify a person,  
28 contractor or licensee identified in subsection B, paragraph 3, subdivisions  
29 (a), (b) and (c) and subsection B, paragraph 4 of this section who is  
30 disqualified because of a central registry check conducted pursuant to  
31 subsection B of this section that the person may apply to the board of  
32 fingerprinting for a central registry exception pursuant to section  
33 41-619.57.

34 I. Before being employed in a position that provides direct services  
35 to children or vulnerable adults pursuant to subsection B, paragraph 3 or  
36 subsection C of this section, employees shall certify on forms that are  
37 provided by the department of economic security whether an allegation of  
38 abuse or neglect was made against them and was substantiated. The forms are  
39 confidential.

40 J. A person who is granted a central registry exception pursuant to  
41 section 41-619.57 is not entitled to a contract, employment, licensure,  
42 certification or other benefit because the person has been granted a central  
43 registry exception.

1           Sec. 4. Section 13-3620, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:  
2           13-3620. Duty to report abuse, physical injury, neglect and  
3                     denial or deprivation of medical or surgical care or  
4                     nourishment of minors; medical records; exception;  
5                     violation; classification; definitions

6           A. Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the  
7           victim of physical injury, abuse, child abuse, a reportable offense or  
8           neglect that appears to have been inflicted on the minor by other than  
9           accidental means or that is not explained by the available medical history as  
10          being accidental in nature or who reasonably believes there has been a denial  
11          or deprivation of necessary medical treatment or surgical care or nourishment  
12          with the intent to cause or allow the death of an infant who is protected  
13          under section 36-2281 shall immediately report or cause reports to be made of  
14          this information to a peace officer or to child protective services in the  
15          department of economic security, except if the report concerns a person who  
16          does not have care, custody or control of the minor, the report shall be made  
17          to a peace officer only. A member of the clergy, christian science  
18          practitioner or priest who has received a confidential communication or a  
19          confession in that person's role as a member of the clergy, A christian  
20          science practitioner or a priest in the course of the discipline enjoined by  
21          the church to which the member of the clergy, christian science practitioner  
22          or priest belongs may withhold reporting of the communication or confession  
23          if the member of the clergy, christian science practitioner or priest  
24          determines that it is reasonable and necessary within the concepts of the  
25          religion. This exemption applies only to the communication or confession and  
26          not to personal observations the member of the clergy, christian science  
27          practitioner or priest may otherwise make of the minor. For the purposes of  
28          this subsection, "person" means:

29           1. Any physician, physician's assistant, optometrist, dentist,  
30           osteopath, chiropractor, podiatrist, behavioral health professional, nurse,  
31           psychologist, counselor or social worker who develops the reasonable belief  
32           in the course of treating a patient.

33           2. Any peace officer, member of the clergy, priest or christian  
34           science practitioner.

35           3. The parent, stepparent or guardian of the minor.

36           4. School personnel or domestic violence victim ~~advocate~~ **ADVOCATES** who  
37           develop the reasonable belief in the course of their employment.

38           5. Any other person who has responsibility for the care or treatment  
39           of the minor.

40          B. A report is not required under this section for conduct prescribed  
41          by sections 13-1404 and 13-1405 if the conduct involves only minors who are  
42          fourteen, fifteen, sixteen or seventeen years of age and there is nothing to  
43          indicate that the conduct is other than consensual.

44          C. If a physician, psychologist or behavioral health professional  
45          receives a statement from a person other than a parent, stepparent, guardian

1 or custodian of the minor during the course of providing sex offender  
2 treatment that is not court ordered or that does not occur while the offender  
3 is incarcerated in the state department of corrections or the department of  
4 juvenile corrections, the physician, psychologist or behavioral health  
5 professional may withhold the reporting of that statement if the physician,  
6 psychologist or behavioral health professional determines it is reasonable  
7 and necessary to accomplish the purposes of the treatment.

8 D. Reports shall be made immediately by telephone or **ELECTRONICALLY.**  
9 ~~in person and shall be followed by a written report within seventy two hours.~~  
10 The reports shall contain the **FOLLOWING INFORMATION, IF KNOWN:**

11 1. The names and addresses of the minor and the minor's parents or the  
12 person or persons having custody of the minor, ~~if known.~~

13 2. The minor's age and the nature and extent of the minor's abuse,  
14 child abuse, physical injury or neglect, including any evidence of previous  
15 abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.

16 3. Any other information that the person believes might be helpful in  
17 establishing the cause of the abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.

18 E. A health care professional who is regulated pursuant to title 32  
19 and who, after a routine newborn physical assessment of a newborn infant's  
20 health status or following notification of positive toxicology screens of a  
21 newborn infant, reasonably believes that the newborn infant may be affected  
22 by the presence of alcohol or a drug listed in section 13-3401 shall  
23 immediately report this information, or cause a report to be made, to child  
24 protective services in the department of economic security. For the purposes  
25 of this subsection, "newborn infant" means a newborn infant who is under  
26 thirty days of age.

27 F. Any person other than one required to report or cause reports to be  
28 made under subsection A of this section who reasonably believes that a minor  
29 is or has been a victim of abuse, child abuse, physical injury, a reportable  
30 offense or neglect may report the information to a peace officer or to child  
31 protective services in the department of economic security, except if the  
32 report concerns a person who does not have care, custody or control of the  
33 minor, the report shall be made to a peace officer only.

34 G. A person who has custody or control of medical records of a minor  
35 for whom a report is required or authorized under this section shall make the  
36 records, or a copy of the records, available to a peace officer or child  
37 protective services worker investigating the minor's neglect, child abuse,  
38 physical injury or abuse on written request for the records signed by the  
39 peace officer or child protective services worker. Records disclosed  
40 pursuant to this subsection are confidential and may be used only in a  
41 judicial or administrative proceeding or investigation resulting from a  
42 report required or authorized under this section.

43 H. When ~~telephone or in-person~~ reports are received by a peace  
44 officer, the officer shall immediately notify child protective services in  
45 the department of economic security and make the information available to

1 ~~them~~ CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES. Notwithstanding any other statute, when  
2 child protective services receives these reports ~~by telephone or in person~~,  
3 it shall immediately notify a peace officer in the appropriate jurisdiction.

4 I. Any person who is required to receive reports pursuant to  
5 subsection A of this section may take or cause to be taken photographs of the  
6 minor and the vicinity involved. Medical examinations of the involved minor  
7 may be performed.

8 J. A person who furnishes a report, information or records required or  
9 authorized under this section, or a person who participates in a judicial or  
10 administrative proceeding or investigation resulting from a report,  
11 information or records required or authorized under this section, is immune  
12 from any civil or criminal liability by reason of that action unless the  
13 person acted with malice or unless the person has been charged with or is  
14 suspected of abusing or neglecting the child or children in question.

15 K. Except for the attorney client privilege or the privilege under  
16 subsection L of this section, no privilege applies to any:

17 1. Civil or criminal litigation or administrative proceeding in which  
18 a minor's neglect, dependency, abuse, child abuse, physical injury or  
19 abandonment is an issue.

20 2. Judicial or administrative proceeding resulting from a report,  
21 information or records submitted pursuant to this section.

22 3. Investigation of a minor's child abuse, physical injury, neglect or  
23 abuse conducted by a peace officer or child protective services in the  
24 department of economic security.

25 L. In any civil or criminal litigation in which a child's neglect,  
26 dependency, physical injury, abuse, child abuse or abandonment is an issue, a  
27 member of the clergy, a christian science practitioner or a priest shall not,  
28 without his consent, be examined as a witness concerning any confession made  
29 to him in his role as a member of the clergy, a christian science  
30 practitioner or a priest in the course of the discipline enjoined by the  
31 church to which he belongs. ~~Nothing in~~ This subsection ~~discharges~~ DOES NOT  
32 DISCHARGE a member of the clergy, a christian science practitioner or a  
33 priest from the duty to report pursuant to subsection A of this section.

34 M. If psychiatric records are requested pursuant to subsection G of  
35 this section, the custodian of the records shall notify the attending  
36 psychiatrist, who may excise from the records, before they are made  
37 available:

38 1. Personal information about individuals other than the patient.

39 2. Information regarding specific diagnosis or treatment of a  
40 psychiatric condition, if the attending psychiatrist certifies in writing  
41 that release of the information would be detrimental to the patient's health  
42 or treatment.

43 N. If any portion of a psychiatric record is excised pursuant to  
44 subsection M of this section, a court, ~~upon~~ ON application of a peace officer  
45 or child protective services worker, may order that the entire record or any

1 portion of the record that contains information relevant to the reported  
2 abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect be made available to the peace  
3 officer or child protective services worker investigating the abuse, child  
4 abuse, physical injury or neglect.

5 0. A person who violates this section is guilty of a class 1  
6 misdemeanor, except if the failure to report involves a reportable offense,  
7 the person is guilty of a class 6 felony.

8 P. For the purposes of this section:

9 1. "Abuse" has the same meaning prescribed in section 8-201.

10 2. "Child abuse" means child abuse pursuant to section 13-3623.

11 3. "Neglect" has the same meaning prescribed in section 8-201.

12 4. "Reportable offense" means any of the following:

13 (a) Any offense listed in chapters 14 and 35.1 of this title or  
14 section 13-3506.01.

15 (b) Surreptitious photographing, videotaping, filming or digitally  
16 recording ~~of~~ OR VIEWING a minor pursuant to section 13-3019.

17 (c) Child prostitution pursuant to section 13-3212.

18 (d) Incest pursuant to section 13-3608.

19 Sec. 5. Laws 2012, chapter 50, section 1 is amended to read:

20 Section 1. Child protective services oversight committee;  
21 membership; duties; delayed repeal

22 A. The child protective services oversight committee is established  
23 consisting of the following members:

24 1. Two members of the house of representatives who are appointed by  
25 the speaker of the house of representatives and who are not members of the  
26 same political party. The speaker of the house of representatives shall  
27 designate one of these members to serve as cochairperson of the committee.

28 2. Two members of the senate who are appointed by the president of the  
29 senate and who are not members of the same political party. The president of  
30 the senate shall designate one of these members to serve as cochairperson of  
31 the committee.

32 3. The director of the department of economic security or the  
33 director's designee.

34 4. One member of a law enforcement agency in this state. The speaker  
35 of the house of representatives shall appoint this member.

36 5. One child protective services case worker OR ADMINISTRATOR WITH  
37 CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES CASE WORKER KNOWLEDGE who is appointed by the  
38 director of the department of economic security.

39 6. One foster parent who is appointed by the director of the  
40 department of economic security.

41 7. One guardian ad litem who is appointed by the director of the  
42 administrative office of the courts.

43 8. ONE FORMER FOSTER CHILD WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
44 SENATE.

1           9. ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A FOSTER CARE LICENSING AGENCY WHO IS  
2 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

3           10. ONE PUBLIC MEMBER WHO HAS SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE WITH CHILD  
4 PROTECTIVE SERVICES WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

5           B. The study committee shall:

6           1. Identify the responsibilities and scope of child protective  
7 services, its statutory mandates and department of economic security policies  
8 and procedures relating to that agency.

9           2. Identify areas for statutory improvement in the child protective  
10 services system and recommend statutory and administrative changes.

11           ~~3. Determine if private sector efficiencies can be used in~~  
12 ~~collaboration with the current public sector model to achieve the goals of~~  
13 ~~child protective services.~~

14           ~~4. Examine the use and effectiveness of privatization of the functions~~  
15 ~~of child protective services in other states.~~

16           ~~5. Determine methods to ensure coordination between child protective~~  
17 ~~services and local law enforcement agencies.~~

18           3. MONITOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS AND  
19 RECOMMEND ANY STATUTORY EFFICIENCIES THAT FURTHER THE PURPOSE TO PROTECT  
20 CHILDREN.

21           4. REVIEW ALL SEMIANNUAL REPORTS ON PROGRAM OUTCOMES RELEASED BY CHILD  
22 PROTECTIVE SERVICES TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR TRENDS AND AREAS FOR STATUTORY  
23 IMPROVEMENT.

24           ~~6-~~ 5. On or before ~~November 15, 2012~~ DECEMBER 15, 2014, submit a  
25 report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the speaker of  
26 the house of representatives and the president of the senate, and provide a  
27 copy of its report to the secretary of state.

28           C. Committee members are not eligible to receive compensation or  
29 reimbursement of expenses.

30           D. This section is repealed from and after ~~September 30, 2013~~ DECEMBER  
31 31, 2015.

32           Sec. 6. Triage system plan for reports of child abuse and  
33 neglect

34           A. On or before December 31, 2013, the department of economic security  
35 shall develop a program plan with implementation timelines and funding needs  
36 and opportunities that provide alternative response mechanisms in responding  
37 to reports of child abuse and neglect, including programs of collaborative  
38 partnerships between the department, community social service agencies and  
39 family support programs, law enforcement agencies, developmental disability  
40 agencies, substance abuse treatment entities, health care entities, domestic  
41 violence prevention entities, mental health service entities, schools,  
42 faith-based organizations and other community agencies to allow for the  
43 establishment of a triage system that:

1           1. Accepts, screens, and assesses reports received to determine which  
2 such reports require an intensive intervention and which allow for referral  
3 to another agency, program or project.

4           2. Provides, either directly or through referral, a variety of  
5 community linked services to assist families in preventing child abuse and  
6 neglect.

7           3. Provides further investigation and intensive intervention when the  
8 child's safety is in jeopardy.

9           B. The funding needs and opportunities to be addressed in the plan  
10 shall include the opportunity to submit a title IV-E waiver request as  
11 authorized by section 1130 of the social security act to the United States  
12 department of health and human services.

13           C. On or before December 31, 2013, the department shall submit a  
14 report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the president of  
15 the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the child protective  
16 services oversight committee, the standing committee chairs of the house and  
17 senate human services committees and provide a copy of the report to the  
18 secretary of state.