

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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2

HOUSE BILL 291  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/19/19

Short Title: Continue SSWG and Extend Child Council.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 7, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORK OF THE SOCIAL  
3 SERVICES REGIONAL SUPERVISION AND COLLABORATION WORKING GROUP  
4 AND MAKING CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP, REPORTING, AND  
5 TERMINATION DATES FOR THE CHILD WELL-BEING TRANSFORMATION  
6 COUNCIL.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** Part I of S.L. 2017-41 reads as rewritten:

9 **"SECTION 1.1.** Regional Supervision of and Collaboration by Local Social Services  
10 Programs. -

11 ...  
12 (3) The Department shall submit the plan to the Joint Legislative Oversight  
13 Committee on Health and Human Services by November 15, 2018. The plan  
14 shall provide for the system of regional supervision to be operational no later  
15 than March 1, ~~2020.~~ 2022. The Department shall not implement the plan  
16 without an act by the General Assembly.

17 **"SECTION 1.2.(a)** Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working  
18 Group. – The School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (SOG)  
19 shall ~~convene a~~ continue the work of the Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration  
20 Working Group (Working Group) to make recommendations to the Department regarding the  
21 regional supervision and collaboration plan. The Working Group shall consist of the currently  
22 constituted members as of December 1, 2018.

23 **"SECTION 1.2.(b)** Composition. – The Working Group shall consist of the following  
24 members:

- 25 (1) Three members ~~of the Senate~~ appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
26 Senate, one of whom shall be designated as a cochair.  
27 (2) Three members ~~of the House of Representatives~~ appointed by the Speaker of  
28 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated as a cochair.

29 ...

30 **"SECTION 1.2.(d)** Duties. – The Working Group shall continue to develop  
31 recommendations for the regional supervision and collaboration plan required by Section 1.1 of  
32 this act. The Working Group shall ~~divide its work into two stages, the first~~ continue to (i) address  
33 regional supervision and ~~the second to (ii)~~ address interagency collaboration and regionalization.

- 34 (1) Stage One. – The Working Group shall ~~convene its first meeting~~ no later than  
35 ~~October 6, 2017. During the first stage, the Working Group shall develop~~  
36 October 4, 2019, and continue developing recommendations regarding:



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- 1 a. The size, number, and location of the regions. Recommendations shall  
 2 take into consideration (i) the need for regions to maintain direct, local  
 3 connections with the jurisdictions they serve; (ii) alignment with other  
 4 regional organizations that intersect with the work of social services,  
 5 as appropriate; and (iii) awareness of the cultural differences and  
 6 similarities between regions.
- 7 b. The allocation of responsibility between the central, regional, and local  
 8 officials in supervising and administering the social services programs  
 9 and services.
- 10 c. Methods for holding the regional offices accountable for performance  
 11 and responsiveness.
- 12 d. Requirements for the regional offices to share information about local  
 13 departmental performance with the relevant board or boards of county  
 14 commissioners, county or regional board of social services, or  
 15 consolidated human services board.
- 16 e. Options for authorizing the board of county commissioners to  
 17 intervene in urgent situations to assume direct control of the  
 18 department of social services at the local level prior to the State  
 19 assuming control of service delivery pursuant to G.S. 108A-74.
- 20 f. Any other issues related to regional supervision identified by the  
 21 cochairs.
- 22 (2) Stage Two. – ~~During the second stage, the~~ The Working Group shall:
- 23 a. Develop recommendations regarding legislative and regulatory  
 24 changes necessary to improve collaboration between counties in the  
 25 administration of social services programs and services.  
 26 Recommendations shall address, at a minimum, information sharing,  
 27 conflicts of interest, and intercounty movement of people enrolled in  
 28 programs or receiving social services.
- 29 b. Develop a vision for transitioning the State from a  
 30 county-administered system to a regionally administered system. The  
 31 vision shall identify general benefits and challenges associated with  
 32 making such a transition.
- 33 (3) Stage Three. – After completing the work in Stages One and Two, the  
 34 Working Group shall:
- 35 a. Review the recommendations from the Center for the Support of  
 36 Families and the Department. After reviewing both reports, the  
 37 Working Group shall revise the Stage One recommendations  
 38 regarding regional supervision.
- 39 b. Provide more detailed recommendations regarding the following:
- 40 1. The role of local elected officials and social services governing  
 41 boards in social services oversight.
- 42 2. Legal representation of local social services agencies.
- 43 3. Managing conflicts of interest.
- 44 4. Determining residency for social services programs and  
 45 services.
- 46 5. Transferring and changing venue in adult guardianship cases.
- 47 6. Notice requirements for adult guardianship cases.
- 48 7. Confidentiality of social services records, as it relates to  
 49 improving interagency collaboration and service delivery.

50 "SECTION 1.2.(e) Reports. –

- 1 (1) Stage One. – The Working Group shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative  
2 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services (Committee) and the  
3 Department at the conclusion of Stage One, which shall be no later than April  
4 15, 2018. After receiving the Stage One report, the Committee may terminate  
5 the Working Group if it concludes that the Working Group is not making  
6 sufficient progress.
- 7 (2) Stage Two. – The Working Group shall submit a report to the Committee and  
8 the Department at the conclusion of Stage Two, which shall be no later than  
9 February 1, 2019.
- 10 (3) Stage Three. – The Working Group shall submit a preliminary report to the  
11 Committee no later than October 15, 2020, providing an update on its  
12 continued work. After receiving the preliminary report, the Committee may  
13 terminate the Working Group if it concludes the Working Group is not making  
14 sufficient progress. The Working Group shall submit a final report of its  
15 recommendations to the Committee no later than February 1, 2021, and shall  
16 terminate upon the final report.

17 ...."

18 **SECTION 2.** Section 24.1 of S.L. 2018-5 reads as rewritten:

19 "**SECTION 24.1.(a)** Article 82 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is repealed.

20 ...

21 "**SECTION 24.1.(c)** Membership. – The Children's Council shall be located administratively  
22 in the General Assembly. The Children's Council shall consist of 25-26 members. In making  
23 appointments, each appointing authority shall select members who have appropriate experience  
24 and knowledge of the issues to be examined by the Children's Council and shall strive to ensure  
25 members are appointed who represent the geographical, political, gender, and racial diversity of  
26 this State. The Children's Council members shall be appointed on or after September 1, 2018, as  
27 follows:

- 28 (1) ~~Six-Seven~~ members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
29 Senate, as follows:

30 ...

31 f. One at-large member.

32 ...

33 "**SECTION 24.1.(c1)** Removal. – A member of the Children's Council may be removed by  
34 the cochairs from the Council if the member fails to attend at least fifty percent (50%) of the  
35 meetings held in accordance with subsection (e) of this section during a year.

36 ...

37 "**SECTION 24.1.(i)** Reporting; Termination. – By ~~June-December~~ 30, 2019, the Children's  
38 Council shall submit an interim report to the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on  
39 Health and Human Services, the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations  
40 Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health  
41 and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include a summary of  
42 the Council's work for the previous year, any findings and recommendations for change, and a  
43 work plan for the upcoming year. By ~~June-December~~ 30, 2020, the Children's Council shall  
44 submit a final report and shall terminate on that date.

45 ...."

46 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.