

Children and Families

See full summary documents for additional detail

H82 - Execution/Nonsecure Custody Order/Child Abuse (SL 2015-43)

S.L. 2015-43 clarifies the manner in which a law enforcement officer may enter premises in order to take physical custody of a juvenile when there is a reasonable factual basis to believe the juvenile is abused, neglected, or dependent and a nonsecure custody order has been issued.

This act became effective June 2, 2015, and applies to orders issued on or after that date.

H134 - Soliciting Prostitution/Immunity for Minors (SL 2015-183)

S.L. 2015-183 provides that a minor who is soliciting as a prostitute is immune from prosecution for the offense of solicitation of prostitution.

This act became effective August 5, 2015, and applies to violations occurring on or after that date.

H158 - Jim Fulghum Teen Skin Cancer Prevention Act (SL 2015-21)

S.L. 2015-21 prohibits persons under 18 years of age from using tanning equipment.

This act became effective May 21, 2015.

H293 - Adoption Law Changes (SL 2015-54)

S.L. 2015-54 makes various clarifying and technical changes under the laws pertaining to adoption. Among other things, the act provides that certain adoptions are subject to the Hague Adoption Convention, addresses jurisdictional requirements, modifies the times for taking certain actions, and provides that a preplacement assessment is not required in an independent adoption when a prospective adoptive parent is one of the specified relatives.

The provisions of this act that modify times for taking certain actions became effective June 4, 2015, and apply to proceedings filed after that date. The remainder of this act became effective June 4, 2015.

H308 - Clarify Reasonable Health Insurance/Long-Term Care Ombudsman (SL 2015-220)

S.L. 2015-220 amends laws pertaining to medical support and health insurance coverage relating to child support in order to align State law and federal guidelines, and modifies the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to conform to federal requirements.

The provisions of this act pertaining to support and coverage relating to child support became effective August 18, 2015, and apply to orders issued or agreements entered into on or after that date. The remainder of this act becomes effective July 1, 2016.

H465 - Women and Children's Protection Act of 2015 (SL 2015-62)

[For a detailed summary of all of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

H669 - Juvenile Law Changes/Abuse/Neglect/Dependency (SL 2015-136)

S.L. 2015-135, as amended by Sec. 34 of S.L. 2015-264, makes various changes to the juvenile laws pertaining to abuse, neglect, and dependency. Among other provisions, the act addresses a foster parent's standing to intervene in certain proceedings, authorizes a nonsecure custody order to be entered ex parte, requires certain notifications to persons with legal custody of a juvenile's siblings, specifies under what circumstances a county department of social services need not make reasonable efforts for reunification, and adds new provisions relating to the court's adoption of a permanent plan for the juvenile.

The provisions of this act pertaining to ex parte nonsecure custody orders became effective July 2, 2015. The remainder of this act became effective October 1, 2015, and applies to actions filed or pending on or after that date.

S114 - Custodial Parent/Party Cooperate with Child Support (SL 2015-51)

S.L. 2015-51 requires the Division of Child Development and Early Education and the Division of Social Services in the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan to require a person with primary custody of a child receiving child care subsidy payments to cooperate with county child support services as a condition of receiving the subsidy payments. The Divisions are required to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division.

This act became effective July 1, 2015.

S119 - GSC Technical Corrections 2015, Sec. 44: Amendments to Courts of Competent Jurisdiction for Adoption (SL 2015-264)

Sec. 44 of S.L. 2015-264 adds a new subsection to Chapter 48 of the General Statutes to clarify that the clerk of superior court, the district court, and the superior court are each courts of competent jurisdiction for the purposes of judicial proceedings accepting voluntary consents to adoption under federal regulations or state laws, and for making determinations as to whether there is good cause to deviate from regulatory placement preferences when accepting voluntary consents to adoption.

This section became effective October 1, 2015.

S423 - Foster Care Family Act (SL 2015-135)

S.L. 2015-135 modifies laws concerning foster care families by:

- Effective October 1, 2015, creating a reasonable and prudent parent standard in foster care.
- Providing liability insurance for foster parents.
- Effective October 1, 2015, reducing the barriers to obtain a driver's license by foster children.
- Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to study a Medicaid waiver for children with serious emotional disturbance and to report findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by December 1, 2015.

Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective July 2, 2015.

S488 - Amend Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (SL 2015-117)

S.L. 2015-117 amends the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) and makes changes to the administration of child support services in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the collection and payment of child support to families.

This act became effective on June 24, 2015.

S519 - Amend Child Custody Laws (SL 2015-278)

S.L. 2015-278 creates in statute a legislative policy concerning child custody determinations. The act encourages cooperation by parents and the courts in crafting agreements and practices that encourage both parents to participate in parenting responsibilities and to focus on the best interests of the child. The act also requires judges to make written findings of fact in custody orders, reflecting the consideration of specified factors.

This act became effective on October 20, 2015.

S578 - Transition Certain Abuse Investigations/Division of Child Development and Early Education (SL 2015-123)

S. L. 2015-123 transitions abuse and neglect investigations in child care facilities to the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

This act becomes effective January 1, 2016.