

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended
5 by adding Section 21.2a as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/21.2a new)

7 Sec. 21.2a. The Department of Children and Family Services'
8 Child Protection Training Academy.

9 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds and declares all
10 of the following:

11 (1) The Department of Children and Family Services
12 collaborated with the University of Illinois at
13 Springfield to develop the Child Protection Training
14 Academy in 2015.

15 (2) The Child Protection Training Academy represents
16 an innovative approach to training frontline child
17 protection investigators using experiential learning
18 through simulations. Simulations provide a safe learning
19 environment that bridges the gap between policy and
20 practice, increases worker engagement, and accelerates
21 learning.

22 (3) Research indicates that traditional classroom
23 training results in less than a 15% transfer of knowledge

1 once in the field.

2 (b) Subject to appropriation, the training efforts of the
3 Child Protection Training Academy shall include, but not be
4 limited to, the following:

5 (1) The continued development of simulation training
6 for all child protection investigators, including those
7 newly hired and seasoned investigators.

8 (2) The continued development and implementation of
9 simulation training for investigation, intact, and
10 permanency supervisors.

11 (3) The development of simulation training for intact
12 and permanency workers both in the Department and at
13 private agencies.

14 (4) The development of simulation-based training
15 curricula on recognizing and responding to cases of child
16 abuse or neglect for mandated reporters.

17 (5) The development of simulation-based training for
18 multidisciplinary teams in partnership with the
19 Department, including, but not limited to, the use of mock
20 medical and mock forensic facilities.

21 (6) Cultural competency training for investigative
22 staff that provides tools and other supports to ensure that
23 a child welfare provider's response to and engagement with
24 families and children of color are: (i) conducted or
25 provided in a manner that is responsive to the beliefs,
26 interpersonal styles, attitudes, language, and behaviors

1 of the individuals who are receiving services; and (ii)
2 conducted or provided in a manner that has the greatest
3 likelihood of ensuring maximum success of or participation
4 in the child welfare program or services being provided.

5 (7) Laboratory training facilities that may include,
6 but not be limited to, mock houses, mock courtrooms, mock
7 medical facilities, and mock forensic interview rooms that
8 allow for simulated, interactive, and intensive training.

9 (8) Minimum standards of competence that staff shall be
10 required to demonstrate prior to receiving Child Welfare
11 Employee Licensure certification from the Department.

12 (c) By July 1, 2020, the Department of Children and Family
13 Services may adopt procedures for the administration of the
14 Child Protection Training Academy that not only establish
15 statewide competence, assessment, and training standards for
16 persons providing child welfare services, but that also ensure
17 that persons who provide child welfare services have the
18 knowledge, skills, professionalism, and abilities to make
19 decisions that keep children safe and secure. The Department
20 shall continue to arrange for an independent evaluation of the
21 Child Protection Training Academy through June 2021, inclusive
22 of the first 5 years of operation. Nothing in this Section
23 prohibits the Department from administering simulation
24 training with other entities outside of the University of
25 Illinois at Springfield. The Department may contract with any
26 entity to provide all aspects of child welfare training.

1 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
2 becoming law.