



HR0418

LRB100 12763 KTG 26306 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services
3 ("DCFS" or "Department") is responsible for providing child
4 protective services and programs to abused, neglected, and
5 dependent children and their families; and

6 WHEREAS, The shooting death of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald
7 by a Chicago police officer on October 20, 2014 shed light on
8 the inefficiencies that plague the DCFS foster care program as
9 media reports revealed the instability and abuse Laquan
10 McDonald experienced throughout his youth as he moved through
11 the foster care system; and

12 WHEREAS, Last month's suspicious death of 16 month-old
13 Semaj Crosby, whose body was found in her family's Joliet home
14 a day and a half after DCFS case workers visited the home to
15 investigate an allegation of child neglect, has elicited sharp
16 criticism on how DCFS investigates reports of child abuse and
17 neglect; and

18 WHEREAS, Illinois has an interest in ensuring that all
19 reports of child abuse and neglect are thoroughly investigated
20 and that the children of this State have access to adequate and
21 efficient protective services and programs; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the
3 Auditor General is directed in accordance with Section 3-2 of
4 the Illinois State Auditing Act to conduct a performance audit
5 on the Department of Children and Family Services to review and
6 assess the Department's protocols for investigating reports of
7 child abuse and neglect; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the audit include a review of each abuse and
9 neglect investigation conducted by the Department of Children
10 and Family Services within the past 5 years, including, but not
11 limited to, a review of:

12 (1) the status of each abuse and neglect investigation;

13 (2) the final determination or findings made by the
14 Department for each abuse and neglect investigation;

15 (3) the time frame within which the Department
16 completed or closed each abuse and neglect investigation;

17 (4) recommendations made by the Department to each
18 family who was the subject of an abuse or neglect
19 investigation, including any services provided by the
20 Department to the child or family; and

21 (5) demographic information on each abuse and neglect
22 investigation, including the age, race, and gender of each
23 child who was the subject of the abuse or neglect
24 investigation, and the zip code and county where the abuse
25 or neglect was alleged to have occurred; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That, upon completion of the audit, the Auditor
2 General compile a detailed report that lists, by county, the
3 information collected and examined under the audit, including a
4 full summary on the number of lawsuits or other legal actions
5 filed against the Department within the past 5 years that
6 concern an abuse or neglect investigation and the number of
7 lawsuits the Department settled within the past 5 years that
8 concern an abuse or neglect investigation; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Department of Children and Family
10 Services cooperate fully and promptly with the Auditor General
11 in the conduct of this audit; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General is not allowed or
13 authorized to release or disclose in his report any information
14 that is prohibited from public disclosure under the Abused and
15 Neglected Child Reporting Act or under any other State or
16 federal law; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence this audit as
18 soon as possible and submit his report, including his findings
19 and recommendations, upon completion in accordance with the
20 provisions of Section 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act;
21 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to
2 the Auditor General and the Department of Children and Family
3 Services.