

SB0063



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB0063

Introduced 1/29/2021, by Sen. Robert Peters

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 505/7.3a
20 ILCS 505/35.10

Amends the Children and Family Services Act. Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to ensure that every youth in care who is entering his or her final year of high school has completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form, if applicable, or an application for State financial aid on or after October 1, but no later than November 1, of the youth's final year of high school. Requires the Department to assist a youth in care in identifying and obtaining all documents necessary to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form, if applicable, or an application for State financial aid.

LRB102 12026 KTG 17362 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning children.

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 changing Sections 7.3a and 35.10 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/7.3a)

7 Sec. 7.3a. Normalcy parenting for children in foster care;
8 participation in childhood activities.

9 (a) Legislative findings.

10 (1) Every day parents make important decisions about
11 their child's participation in extracurricular activities.
12 Caregivers for children in out-of-home care are faced with
13 making the same decisions.

14 (2) When a caregiver makes decisions, he or she must
15 consider applicable laws, rules, and regulations to
16 safeguard the health, safety, and best interests of a
17 child in out-of-home care.

18 (3) Participation in extracurricular activities is
19 important to a child's well-being, not only emotionally,
20 but also in developing valuable life skills.

21 (4) The General Assembly recognizes the importance of
22 making every effort to normalize the lives of children in
23 out-of-home care and to empower a caregiver to approve or

1 not approve a child's participation in appropriate
2 extracurricular activities based on the caregiver's own
3 assessment using the reasonable and prudent parent
4 standard, without prior approval of the Department, the
5 caseworker, or the court.

6 (5) Nothing in this Section shall be presumed to
7 discourage or diminish the engagement of families and
8 guardians in the child's life activities.

9 (b) Definitions. As used in this Section:

10 "Appropriate activities" means activities or items that
11 are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same
12 chronological age or developmental level of maturity.
13 Appropriateness is based on the development of cognitive,
14 emotional, physical, and behavioral capacity that is typical
15 for an age or age group, taking into account the individual
16 child's cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral
17 development.

18 "Caregiver" means a person with whom the child is placed
19 in out-of-home care or a designated official for child care
20 facilities licensed by the Department as defined in the Child
21 Care Act of 1969.

22 "Reasonable and prudent parent standard" means the
23 standard characterized by careful and sensible parental
24 decisions that maintain the child's health, safety, and best
25 interests while at the same time supporting the child's
26 emotional and developmental growth that a caregiver shall use

1 when determining whether to allow a child in out-of-home care
2 to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and
3 social activities.

4 (c) Requirements for decision-making.

5 (1) Each child who comes into the care and custody of
6 the Department is fully entitled to participate in
7 appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and
8 social activities in a manner that allows that child to
9 participate in his or her community to the fullest extent
10 possible.

11 (2) Caregivers must use the reasonable and prudent
12 parent standard in determining whether to give permission
13 for a child in out-of-home care to participate in
14 appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and
15 social activities. Caregivers are expected to promote and
16 support a child's participation in such activities. When
17 using the reasonable and prudent parent standard, the
18 caregiver shall consider:

19 (A) the child's age, maturity, and developmental
20 level to promote the overall health, safety, and best
21 interests of the child;

22 (B) the best interest of the child based on
23 information known by the caregiver;

24 (C) the importance and fundamental value of
25 encouraging the child's emotional and developmental
26 growth gained through participation in activities in

1 his or her community;

2 (D) the importance and fundamental value of
3 providing the child with the most family-like living
4 experience possible; and

5 (E) the behavioral history of the child and the
6 child's ability to safely participate in the proposed
7 activity.

8 (3) A caregiver is not liable for harm caused to a
9 child in out-of-home care who participates in an activity
10 approved by the caregiver, provided that the caregiver has
11 acted as a reasonable and prudent parent in permitting the
12 child to engage in the activity.

13 (d) Rulemaking. The Department shall adopt, by rule,
14 procedures no later than June 1, 2017 that promote and protect
15 the ability of children to participate in appropriate
16 extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities.

17 (e) The Department shall ensure that every youth in care
18 who is entering his or her final year of high school has
19 completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form, if
20 applicable, or an application for State financial aid on or
21 after October 1, but no later than November 1, of the youth's
22 final year of high school.

23 (Source: P.A. 99-839, eff. 8-19-16.)

24 (20 ILCS 505/35.10)

25 Sec. 35.10. Documents necessary for adult living. The

1 Department shall assist a youth in care in identifying and
2 obtaining documents necessary to function as an independent
3 adult prior to the closure of the youth's case to terminate
4 wardship as provided in Section 2-31 of the Juvenile Court Act
5 of 1987. These necessary documents shall include, but not be
6 limited to, any of the following:

7 (1) State identification card or driver's license.

8 (2) Social Security card.

9 (3) Medical records, including, but not limited to,
10 health passport, dental records, immunization records,
11 name and contact information for all current medical,
12 dental, and mental health providers, and a signed
13 certification that the Department provided the youth with
14 education on executing a healthcare power of attorney.

15 (4) Medicaid card or other health eligibility
16 documentation.

17 (5) Certified copy of birth certificate.

18 (6) Any applicable religious documents.

19 (7) Voter registration card.

20 (8) Immigration, citizenship, or naturalization
21 documentation, if applicable.

22 (9) Death certificates of parents, if applicable.

23 (10) Life book or compilation of personal history and
24 photographs.

25 (11) List of known relatives with relationships,
26 addresses, telephone numbers, and other contact

1 information, with the permission of the involved relative.

2 (12) Resume.

3 (13) Educational records, including list of schools
4 attended, and transcript, high school diploma, or high
5 school equivalency certificate.

6 (14) List of placements while in care.

7 (15) List of community resources with referral
8 information, including the Midwest Adoption Center for
9 search and reunion services for former youth in care,
10 whether or not they were adopted, and the Illinois Chapter
11 of Foster Care Alumni of America.

12 (16) All documents necessary to complete a Free
13 Application for Federal Student Aid form, if applicable,
14 or an application for State financial aid.

15 If a court determines that a youth in care no longer requires
16 wardship of the court and orders the wardship terminated and
17 all proceedings under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987
18 respecting the youth in care finally closed and discharged,
19 the Department shall ensure that the youth in care receives a
20 copy of the court's order.

21 (Source: P.A. 100-680, eff. 1-1-19.)