



Rep. Eddie Washington

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LRB096 10282 JAM 23752 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2365

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 2365 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Kinship Navigator Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 (1) "Department" means the Department of Human
8 Services.

9 (2) "NPO" means a not-for-profit organization.

10 (3) "Municipality" has the meaning ascribed to it in
11 Section 1-1-2 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

12 (4) "Kinship care" means, as defined by Child Welfare
13 League of America, the full time care, nurturing, and
14 protection of children by relatives, members of their
15 tribes or clans, grandparents, godparents, stepparents, or
16 any adult who has physical custody and a kinship bond with

1 a child. This definition is designed to be inclusive
2 without age restrictions on the kinship caregiver and
3 respectful of cultural values and ties of affection. It
4 allows a child to grow to adulthood in a family
5 environment.

6 (5) "Kinship Navigator" means a statewide program
7 designed to ensure kinship caregivers the necessary
8 resources for the preservation of the family.

9 Section 10. Legislative findings and intent.

10 (1) Caregivers often provide kinship care without
11 compensation or support systems.

12 (2) Kinship caregivers are crucial to avoiding
13 institutionalization of children and saving taxpayer
14 dollars.

15 (3) Kinship caregivers are frequently under
16 substantial physical, psychological, and financial stress.
17 Unrelieved by support services available to the caregiver,
18 this stress may lead to premature or unnecessary
19 institutionalization for the care recipient or
20 deterioration of the health condition and family
21 circumstances of the kinship caregiver.

22 (4) Sudden responsibility for children often precludes
23 kinship caregivers the opportunity to plan basic day to day
24 responsibility.

25 (5) The Kinship Navigator shall be seamless,

1 statewide, and coordinated among the Department of Human
2 Services, Department on Aging, Illinois Housing Authority,
3 Department of Children and Family Services, Department of
4 Corrections, and federal and local governments as well as
5 other public and private sources.

6 (6) Additional services provided under the Kinship
7 Navigator shall be: organizing diverse, enriched, and
8 culturally conscious kinship support groups and
9 counseling; assisting with applying for benefits within
10 the Illinois Department of Human Services' Family
11 Community Resource Centers for those who qualify;
12 publishing monthly newsletters; coordinating respite and
13 crisis care services; assisting kinship caregivers with
14 job readiness, job search, and job retention; and providing
15 technical assistance to start up kinship support groups.

16 Section 15. Kinship Navigator conferences: promotion. The
17 Department shall arrange for the conduct of 2 conferences, one
18 in Cook County and one in Sangamon County, and provide for
19 exhibits and activities for kinship caregivers and social
20 service providers.

21 Section 20. Kinship Navigator administration. The
22 Department, subject to appropriation, shall administer the
23 Kinship Navigator through a contract with an NPO that has
24 worked statewide with kinship families. The contract shall

1 require that the program created by this Act will be
2 coordinated with (i) the grandparent child care program
3 administered by the Department of Children and Family Services
4 under Section 34.11 of the Children and Family Services Act,
5 (ii) the Department of Children and Family Services under
6 Section 39.1 of the Children and Family Services Act, and (iii)
7 the Department on Aging under Section 92 of the Family
8 Caregiver Act.

9 Section 25. Rules. The Department shall adopt the rules
10 necessary for the implementation and administration of this
11 Act.

12 Section 90. The Children and Family Services Act is amended
13 by changing Section 34.11 and adding Section 39.1 as follows:

14 (20 ILCS 505/34.11)

15 Sec. 34.11. Grandparent child care program.

16 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares the following:

17 (1) An increasing number of children under the age of
18 18, including many children who would otherwise be at risk
19 of abuse or neglect, are in the care of a grandparent or
20 other nonparent relative.

21 (2) The principal causes of this increase include
22 parental substance abuse, chronic illness, child abuse,
23 mental illness, military deployment, poverty,

1 homelessness, deportation, and death, as well as concerted
2 efforts by families and by the child welfare service system
3 to keep children with relatives whenever possible.

4 (3) Grandparents and older relatives providing primary
5 care for at-risk children may experience unique resultant
6 problems, such as financial stress due to limited incomes,
7 emotional difficulties dealing with the loss of the child's
8 parents or the child's unique behaviors, and decreased
9 physical stamina coupled with a much higher incidence of
10 chronic illness.

11 (4) Many children being raised by nonparent relatives
12 experience one or a combination of emotional, behavioral,
13 psychological, academic, or medical problems, especially
14 those born to a substance-abusing mother or at risk of
15 child abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

16 (5) Grandparents and other relatives providing primary
17 care for children lack appropriate information about the
18 issues of kinship care, the special needs (both physical
19 and psychological) of children born to a substance-abusing
20 mother or at risk of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment,
21 and the support resources currently available to them.

22 (b) The Department may establish an informational and
23 educational program for grandparents and other relatives who
24 provide primary care for children who are at risk of child
25 abuse, neglect, or abandonment or who were born to
26 substance-abusing mothers. As a part of the program, the

1 Department may develop, publish, and distribute an
2 informational brochure for grandparents and other relatives
3 who provide primary care for children who are at risk of child
4 abuse, neglect, or abandonment or who were born to
5 substance-abusing mothers. The information provided under the
6 program authorized by this Section may include, but is not
7 limited to the following:

8 (1) The most prevalent causes of kinship care,
9 especially the risk of (i) substance exposure, (ii) ~~or~~
10 child abuse, neglect, or abandonment, (iii) chronic
11 illness, (iv) mental illness, (v) military deployment, or
12 (vi) death.

13 (2) The problems experienced by children being raised
14 by nonparent caregivers.

15 (3) The problems experienced by grandparents and other
16 nonparent relatives providing primary care for children
17 who have special needs.

18 (4) The legal system as it relates to children and
19 their nonparent primary caregivers.

20 (5) The benefits available to children and their
21 nonparent primary caregivers.

22 (6) A list of support groups and resources located
23 throughout the State.

24 The brochure may be distributed through hospitals, public
25 health nurses, child protective services, medical professional
26 offices, elementary and secondary schools, senior citizen

1 centers, public libraries, community action agencies selected
2 by the Department, and the Department of Human Services.

3 The Kinship Navigator established under the Kinship
4 Navigator Act shall coordinate the grandparent child care
5 program under this Section with the programs and services
6 established and administered by the Department of Human
7 Services under the Kinship Navigator Act.

8 (Source: P.A. 88-229; 88-670, eff. 12-2-94; 89-507, eff.
9 7-1-97.)

10 (20 ILCS 505/39.1 new)

11 Sec. 39.1. Kinship Navigator Act. The Kinship Navigator
12 established under the Kinship Navigator Act shall coordinate
13 the child welfare services administered by the Department in
14 relation to kinship care for children and families receiving
15 services under this Act with the programs and services
16 established and administered by the Department of Human Services
17 under the Kinship Navigator Act.

18 Section 95. The Family Caregiver Act is amended by adding
19 Section 92 as follows:

20 (320 ILCS 65/92 new)

21 Sec. 92. Kinship Navigator Act. The Kinship Navigator
22 established under the Kinship Navigator Act shall coordinate
23 the services administered by the Department under this Act with

1 the programs and services established and administered by the
2 Department of Human Services under the Kinship Navigator Act.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law.".