

CONFIDENTIAL
LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2016

Bill Number: H. 522 Name of Bill: Office of Child Advocate

Agency/Dept: DPS/VSP Author of Bill Lt Brian Miller
Review: _____

Date of Bill Review: 01/12/16 Related Bills and Key Players: Other child protection bills

Status of Bill: (check one)

☒ Upon Introduction ☐ As passed by 1st body ☐ As passed by both bodies

Recommended Position:

☐ Support ☒ Oppose ☐ Remain Neutral ☐ Support with modifications identified in # 8 below

Analysis of Bill

1. **Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** *This bill will establish the office of child advocate.*
2. **Is there a need for this bill?** No, This bill is an additional layer in child protection. It is in essence functioning as the commissioner of AHS should be now.
3. **What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?** This Department will come under the jurisdiction of this office and this could mean that the system of child abuse investigations will be changed. This could have an adverse effect on police investigations of abuse. More money and time may be needed as the result of this office for the State Police.
4. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** All Departments having anything to do with child protection will answer to this office. There may be significant pushback by other agencies.
5. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** As stated above any entity that deals with child protection will be under this office.
6. **Other Stakeholders:**
 - 6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why? Child protection advocates
 - 6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why? State agencies that already do a good job on these cases and do not need additional oversight.
7. **Rationale for recommendation:** This Bill is really designed to prevent issues that have occurred in the past with DCF. It is not needed to affect all the agencies that are doing their job and with good communication. Other Bills pending should cover the issues in DCF and make this bill not needed.

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word or PDF document to laura.gray@state.vt.us and Jessica.mishaan@state.vt.us

8. **Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:** *Remove complete oversight of all state agencies and focus on AHS only.*

9. **Gubernatorial appointments to board or commission?** no

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "K. Gray", is written over a faint rectangular stamp.

Date: 1/29/16