

 <p>KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill</p>	Blue Bill # HB 20						
	Referred to Committee: House 1						
Authors: Zachary Beickman, Morgan Farris, Claudia Jennings	<p>Action on the Bill</p> <table> <tr> <th>House</th> <th>Senate</th> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	<input type="checkbox"/> Passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
House		Senate					
<input type="checkbox"/> Passed		<input type="checkbox"/> Passed					
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School: Holy Name School							
City: Henderson							

1 An act to mandate state funding for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program

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3 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

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5 Section One: All children in abuse cases are appointed a CASA worker as their representative voice to serve
6 them in court. Although it is a state law (KRS 620.500), there is no state funding for the program. The
7 volunteers are people who complete training through the CASA program. They are also supervised by CASA
8 officials. Volunteers are then appointed (by a judge) to represent the best interests of abused and neglected
9 children in court.

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11 Section Two: CASA volunteer defined: must be at least 21 years of age, of good moral character, and
12 successfully complete screening. Training is approximately 30 hours of class work and court observation.
13 Ongoing training is offered through seminars. CASA volunteers also take an oath of confidentiality.

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15 Section Three: With state funding, even more CASA volunteers will continue to attend all court hearings and
16 submit written reports. Volunteers are required to submit at least one report every six months. All
17 documentation and observations are reported back to the judge for determining the best interest of the
18 child.

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20 Section Four: Currently, 700 unpaid volunteers monitor and visit well over 3,000 children as often as
21 necessary to observe whether needs are being met and if court orders are being followed. CASA volunteers
22 are also responsible for reporting incidents of abuse or neglect to authorities. Expenses for CASA volunteers
23 go for items such as transportation and office materials to maintain files on the children for whom they are
24 responsible. The current system will work more efficiently and quickly with some financial support.

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26 Section Five: This bill will be funded by adding a two dollar fee to court costs in cases such as Assault 4th
27 Degree, Domestic Violence, Unlawful Transaction with a Minor, or any other criminal charge where a child is
28 a victim.

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30 Section Six: This bill will go into effect on July 1, 2014.