

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill	Blue Bill # SB 21						
	Referred to Committee: Senate 1						
Authors: Olivia Gilliam, Kyle Bratcher, Sophie Metheny, Abby Waide	Action on the Bill <table> <tr> <td>House</td> <td>Senate</td> </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					
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated						
School: James Madison Middle School							
City: Madisonville							

1 An act to establish a new position in the Kentucky Foster Care system.

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

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5 Section 1: In order to ensure the safety and well-being of foster children in Kentucky, we propose that the
6 state require more visitations to foster care homes. The more home visits made to a foster home, the more
7 likely abuse or neglect will be spotted, so we suggest that a new part-time position be created to assist in
8 home visits. This position is to be called a social work aide or S.W.A. We feel that this is important because
9 in 2011, Kentucky ranked as 10th in the country, as there were 64 fatalities/reported abuses by the foster
10 parents.

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12 Section 2: One way that we can ensure that these foster children are being taken care of is through home
13 visits. Right now, these are conducted by over-worked & underpaid social workers. We propose to hire
14 part-time S.W.A employees to make some of these visits. They will have to go to some of the homes and
15 report back to their supervising social worker. The aide will not have the ability to remove the child from a
16 foster family, only to check on the condition of the home and family using a pre-made checklist approved by
17 the Kentucky Board of Health and Family Services.

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19 Section 3: These S.W.A employees would have to possess a love for children, be at least 21 years of age,
20 have a high school diploma or GED, and attend a two week training on the foster care system. All S.W.A.'s
21 will be paid no more than \$14/hour, with a maximum of 5 visits a day. They will have to go into the homes
22 and evaluate the whole house and family according to a checklist. The S.W.A. shall use their own judgment
23 to decide whether the house is a suitable place for the child to stay (code green), okay for the child but
24 needs some fixing/counseling (code yellow), or if the child is put in imminent danger (code red). If the S.W.A.
25 does not perform all of the required duties, they could face suspension and/or removal from the job.

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27 Section 4: If the house is deemed "green", then the S.W.A. must only turn in a signed report to the social
28 worker. If the house is "yellow", then the S.W.A. must turn in a report and the social worker has to go to the
29 home sometime in the next week. If the house is determined "red" then the social worker has to be notified
30 immediately, visit the house within the next twenty-four hours, and turn in both the S.W.A.'s report and their
31 report. If at any time, the S.W.A. feels like the situation needs immediate attention they can call the police.

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33 Section 5: This bill is estimated to cost \$3 million per year. The funding for S.W.A.'s can come from police
34 auctions, money saved due to the fact that social workers will no longer have to work overtime, but also the
35 Child Protection Grant from Homeland Security. This grant allows funding up to \$5 million a year to states
36 that have programs to help protect the children.

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38 Section 6: This bill would take effect July 1, 2014.