

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill	Red Bill # 47						
	Referred to Committee: House 2						
Authors: Dustin Wilcox, Hayden Woosley, Garrett Pyle, Aaron Crosby	Action on the Bill						
School: Hopkinsville MS							
City: Hopkinsville							
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">House</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Senate</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">____ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">____ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">____ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td style="text-align: center;">____ <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
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1 An act to expedite termination of parental rights for children removed by Cabinet for Health and Family
2 Services.
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4 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

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6 Section 1: Most children in Kentucky’s foster care system have been removed from the home due to neglect
7 or abuse. In 2013, there were 10,491 children in Kentucky being cared for through the state foster care
8 system. The average length of stay for children in care was 18.7 months, and children were in an average of
9 2.3 different places during that time. Adoptions were finalized for 17% of these children, and adopted
10 children averaged even more time – 36.7 months – in the foster care system.*

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12 Section 2: Children who are neglected and abused are witness to and learn many inappropriate behaviors.
13 Many times, these children have been moved back and forth between the unstable environment and multiple
14 foster placements over a period of years. Terminating parental rights earlier, and removing children from
15 unstable environments more quickly and at a younger age, not only keeps children safe from additional harm,
16 but also lessens the likelihood of them internalizing those inappropriate behaviors and repeating the cycle of
17 abuse as adults. It is especially important to terminate parental rights earlier for children who entered the
18 system as infants, so they can bond with caring adults in a nurturing environment. Terminating parental
19 rights earlier protects children from further harm, and gives children the opportunity to be adopted or placed
20 permanently in a stable environment where they can feel secure and learn appropriate behaviors that lead
21 them to become productive and responsible adults.

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23 Section 3: This bill aims to reduce the amount of time a child spends under the care of the state before
24 parental rights can be terminated.

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26 Section 4: Current Law KRS 625.090 (2j) states: That the child has been in foster care under the
27 responsibility of the cabinet for fifteen (15) of the most recent twenty-two (22) months preceding the filing
28 of the petition to terminate parental rights.

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30 Section 5: Proposed Revision to KRS 625.090: That the child has been in care under the responsibility of
31 the cabinet for one (1) year, or for six (6) months in the case of a child who comes into care as an infant, or
32 there is a history of previous placement or placements of the child.

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34 Section 6: There is no additional cost to implement this bill.

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36 Section 7: This bill would go into effect on the 1st of January, 2015.

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38 *www.courts.ky.gov – Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards 2013 Annual Report