HOUSE BILL No. 1743

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 12-13-14.5-3.5; IC 31-33-2-2.

Synopsis: Child caseworker caseload ratios. Establishes maximum caseload ratios for child protection and child welfare caseworkers. Requires local child protection services to maintain sufficient staff at all times to comply with the maximum caseload ratios.

Effective: July 1, 2005.

Budak, Becker, Dickinson, Walorski

January 19, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs.

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First Regular Session 114th General Assembly (2005)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.
  Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.
  Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or *~~this style type~~* reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2004 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1743

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning human services.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1   SECTION 1. IC 12-13-14.5-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005]: **Sec. 3.5. (a) A child protection**
4 **caseworker or a child welfare caseworker may not be assigned**
5 **work that exceeds the following maximum caseload levels at any**
6 **time:**
7   **(1) For caseworkers assigned only initial assessments,**
8   **including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or**
9   **neglect, twelve (12) active cases per month per caseworker.**
10   **(2) For caseworkers assigned only ongoing cases, seventeen**
11   **(17) active families per caseworker.**
12   **(3) For caseworkers assigned a combination of initial**
13   **assessments and ongoing cases under subdivisions (1) and (2),**
14   **four (4) investigations and ten (10) active ongoing cases per**
15   **caseworker.**
16   **(b) The local child protection service shall comply with the**
17 **maximum caseload ratios described in subsection (a).**

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1   SECTION 2. IC 31-33-2-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005]: Sec. 2. The local child
3 protection service:
4   (1) must have sufficient qualified and trained staff **at all times** to:
5   **(A)** fulfill the purpose of this article; **and**
6   **(B) comply with the maximum caseload ratios for:**
7   **(i) child protection caseworkers; and**
8   **(ii) child welfare caseworkers;**
9   **set forth in IC 12-13-14.5-3.5;**
10   (2) must be organized to maximize the continuity of
11   responsibility, care, and service of individual caseworkers toward
12   individual children and families;
13   (3) must provide training to representatives of the child protective
14   services system regarding the legal duties of the representatives,
15   which may consist of various methods of informing the
16   representatives of their duties, in order to protect the legal rights
17   and safety of children and families from the initial time of contact
18   during the investigation through treatment; and
19   (4) must provide training to representatives of the child protective
20   services system regarding the constitutional rights of the child's
21   family, including a child's guardian or custodian, that is the
22   subject of an investigation of child abuse or neglect consistent
23   with the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and
24   Article I, Section 11 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana.

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