

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 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE ENROLLED ACT No. 1406

AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning human services.

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

SECTION 1. IC 31-9-2-72.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: **Sec. 72.5. (a) "Kinship caregiver", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-20, means a person who is:**

- (1) at least eighteen (18) years of age;**
- (2) related to a child by blood, adoption, or marriage or is a godparent or stepparent of the child; and**
- (3) the primary caregiver for and provider of financial support of a child described in subdivision (2) who is residing with the person.**

(b) The term includes a grandparent, a great grandparent, a sibling, an uncle, an aunt, a nephew, a niece, or a first cousin.

SECTION 2. IC 31-9-2-72.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: **Sec. 72.6. "Kinship care navigator", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-20, means a person that assists kinship caregivers with understanding and navigating the system of services for children in out-of-home care under the pilot projects established under IC 31-25-2-20.**

SECTION 3. IC 31-25-2-20 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: **Sec. 20. (a) The department shall collaborate with at least**

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one (1) nonprofit community based agency to develop a grant proposal for submission to potential funding sources, including governmental entities and private foundations, to establish a minimum of three (3) kinship care navigator pilot projects to assist kinship caregivers with understanding and navigating the system of services for children in out-of-home care.

(b) The proposal under subsection (a) must seek to do the following:

- (1) Divide the whole state into the following three (3) regions:
 - (A) Northern Indiana.
 - (B) Central Indiana.
 - (C) Southern Indiana.
- (2) Establish at least one (1) kinship care navigator pilot project in each region described under subdivision (1) with each project managed by a participating community based agency.

(c) A person who acts as a kinship care navigator under the kinship care navigator pilot project shall be required to do the following:

- (1) Have an understanding of the various state agency systems serving kinship caregivers.
- (2) Work in partnership with local community service providers.
- (3) Track trends, concerns, and other factors related to kinship caregivers.
- (4) Assist in establishing stable, respectful relationships between kinship caregivers and department staff.

(d) The implementation of the kinship care navigator pilot projects are contingent upon receipt of nonstate or private funding for the pilot projects.

(e) The department shall report annually to the:

- (1) legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6; and
- (2) governor;

on the implementation of the kinship care navigator pilot projects with recommendations on statewide implementation of the pilot projects beginning one (1) year after implementation of the pilot projects.

(f) The report under subsection (e) must:

- (1) provide data that demonstrates whether the kinship care navigator pilot projects reduced barriers of access to services by kinship caregivers;

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(2) identify statutory and administrative barriers for kinship caregivers; and

(3) provide recommendations to reduce or eliminate the barriers to services without adverse consequences to children placed with kinship caregivers.

(g) This SECTION expires January 1, 2011.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President of the Senate

President Pro Tempore

Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: _____ Time: _____

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