

Children and Families

See full summary documents for additional detail

H239 - Reduce Court of Appeals to 12 Judges. (SL 2017-7)

S.L. 2017-7:

- Reduces the Court of Appeals from 15 to 12 judges by abolishing the first three seats that become vacant on or after January 1, 2017, prior to expiration of the incumbent's term.
- Provides an appeal of right directly to the North Carolina Supreme Court from orders regarding class action certification and orders terminating parental rights or denying a motion or petition to terminate parental rights.
- Permits review by the North Carolina Supreme Court before determination by the Court of Appeals when the subject matter is important in overseeing the jurisdiction and integrity of the court system.

The provisions of the act allowing appeals of right directly to the Supreme Court from orders relating to the termination of parental rights becomes effective January 1, 2019, and applies to appeals filed on or after that date. The remainder of the act became effective April 26, 2017.

H362 - Changes to the Juvenile Code. (SL 2017-161)

S.L. 2017-161 makes various changes to the juvenile code related to abuse, neglect, and dependency. The act becomes effective October 1, 2017.

H630 - Rylan's Law/Family/Child Protect. & Acc. Act. (SL 2017-41)

S.L. 2017-41 does the following:

- Establishes social services regional supervision and collaboration.
- Reforms the State child welfare system.
- Improves accountability and state oversight of the child welfare system.
- Requires written agreements, corrective action, and state intervention with social services departments.
- Creates regional social services departments.
- Establishes a child well-being transformation council to improve coordination, collaboration, and communication among child-serving agencies.
- Establishes a pilot program to help youth in substitute care obtain drivers licenses.
- Establishes a pilot program to authorize a waiver of the employment requirement for foster parents with children receiving intensive alternative family treatment.
- Reduces the time a parent has to appeal from a termination of parental rights order.
- Reduces the time for foster care licensure approval.
- Requires child protective service observation before physical custody of a child may be returned to a parent, guardian, custodian or caretaker from whom the child was removed.

This act has various effective dates. Please see the full summary for more detail.

S53 - Law Enforcement Authority/Custody of Child. (SL 2017-22)

S.L. 2017-22 amends the laws regarding the temporary modification of child-custody in certain circumstances that present a substantial risk to the child. This act became effective October 1, 2017, and applies to orders for temporary custody on or after that date.

S257 - Appropriations Act of 2017.

Sec. 11C.4: Use of Foster Care Budget for Guardianship Assistance Program. (SL 2017-57)

Section 11C.4 of S. L. 2017-57 sets forth requirements for the use of Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) funds from the funds available for provision of foster care services. This section became effective July 1, 2017.

S257 - Appropriations Act of 2017.

Sec. 16D.4: Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act. (SL 2017-57)

Section 16D.4 of S.L. 2017-57 does the following:

1. raises the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include 16 and 17 year olds, except in the case of A-G felonies;
2. provides a victim an opportunity to request review of a decision not to file a juvenile petition;
3. increases the information available on juveniles to law enforcement and for court proceedings;
4. authorizes school-justice partnerships statewide to reduce school based referrals to the juvenile court system;
5. requires regular juvenile justice training for law enforcement officers;
6. provides for gang assessments and enhanced sentencing for offenses committed as part of criminal gang activity; and
7. establishes the Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee.

This section has various effective dates. Please see the full summary for more detail.