



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TO: House Families, Children, and Seniors, Representative Crawford
FROM: Taylor Thrush, Committee Clerk for the House Standing Committee on Oversight
DATE: Thursday, April 18, 2019
SUBJECT: House Oversight Recommendation on the Auditor General 's Performance Audit on Children's Protective Services

Per request of the Chair, I am attaching the adopted report recommendations from the Chair and full membership of the House Standing committee on Oversight and their recommendations.

On Thursday, April 18, 2019, pursuant to House Rule 36, the House Standing Committee On Oversight adopted the House Oversight Auditor General Report Recommendations, the motion prevailing 9-0-0 voting as follows:

Yeas: Reps. Hall, Reilly, Webber, S. Johnson, LaFave, Schroeder, C. A. Johnson, Camilleri, LaGrand. Pass: None.

Auditor General Report Recommendation by the House Oversight Committee

The Committee agrees with the various findings in the Auditor General's report on Children's Protective Services (CPS) Investigations that was released in September of 2018. After conducting four hearings on the audit and taking testimony from both the Auditor General's Office and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the House Oversight Committee recommends several legislative proposals. These proposals include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Child Protection Law (CPL) should be amended to clarify the appropriate actions that should be taken by the department when commencing an investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect. These actions should include verifying the well-being of the children in the home within 24 hours.
- The CPL should be amended to ensure that the department conducts the appropriate monitoring of families' participation in post-investigative services prior to closing out a Category III investigation. Additionally, the department indicates that Category III investigations could be delineated into two different types of responses.
- A "Category III-a" finding would identify a case which, based on the likelihood of recurrence of abuse or neglect would be left opened for CPS services.
- A "Category III-b" finding would identify that recurrence of abuse or neglect is less likely. In these cases, CPS would assist the family in receiving community-based services and the case could be closed.
- The CPL should also be amended to add license exempt child care providers to the list of individuals who should be added to the Central Registry if there exists a preponderance of evidence that the individual was the perpetrator of child abuse or neglect.
- While the CPL states that in each county, the prosecuting attorney and the department shall adopt and implement standard child abuse and neglect investigation protocols, no statutory provision exists to ensure that this is taking place. Legislation should be implemented that would require centralized oversight that these protocols have been implemented.
- The CPL requires that an investigation checklist should be completed for all CPS investigations. The audit found that this checklist was not necessarily completed when the department conducted abbreviated investigations. Abbreviated investigations result when it becomes apparent that there is no child abuse or neglect very early in the investigation. The CPL should be amended to require the department to document why an investigation was