

HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2023 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to Re-Reengrossed Senate Bill No. 137 by Senator Barrow

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, delete lines 2 through 17 and delete page 2 in its entirety and on page 3, delete  
3 lines 1 through 26 and insert the following:

4 "To amend and reenact R.S. 40:2019(C)(introductory paragraph) and to enact R.S.  
5 24:513(D)(7) and 525 and R.S. 40:2019(C)(23), relative to the state child  
6 ombudsman; to provide for the duties of the legislative auditor; to provide for the  
7 appointment of a state child ombudsman by the legislative auditor; to provide for  
8 minimum qualifications; to provide for duties of the state child ombudsman; to  
9 provide for notice to the state child ombudsman of the death of a child in a state  
10 agency's custody or care; to provide for legislative review; to provide for  
11 membership of the State Child Death Review Panel; and to provide for related  
12 matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 24:513(D)(7) and 525 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §513. Powers and duties of legislative auditor; audit reports as public records;  
16 assistance and opinions of attorney general; frequency of audits; subpoena  
17 power

18 \* \* \*

19 D. In addition, the legislative auditor shall perform the following duties and  
20 functions:

21 \* \* \*

22 (7) He shall appoint a state child ombudsman to serve the functions  
23 provided in R.S. 24:525, subject to legislative appropriation, and employ  
24 personnel as may be necessary for the state child ombudsman to perform the  
25 duties and functions imposed upon him.

26 \* \* \*

27 §525. State child ombudsman; duties

28 A.(1) There shall be a state child ombudsman who shall be appointed by  
29 the legislative auditor and shall serve at the pleasure of the legislative auditor  
30 at a salary fixed by the legislative auditor.

31 (2) The state child ombudsman appointed by the legislative auditor shall  
32 have knowledge of the child welfare system and the legal system and be  
33 qualified by training and experience to perform the duties provided for in this  
34 Section.

35 B. The state child ombudsman shall act as an independent ombudsman  
36 monitoring and evaluating the public and private agencies involved in the  
37 protection of children and delivery of services to children, reviewing state  
38 policies and procedures to ensure they protect children's rights and promote  
39 their best interest, and safeguarding the welfare of children through educational  
40 advocacy, system reform, public awareness, and training.

41 C. The state child ombudsman shall have all of the"

42 AMENDMENT NO. 2

43 On page 4, at the beginning of line 2, change "(2) Review periodically" to "(2) Periodically  
44 review"

45 AMENDMENT NO. 3

46 On page 4, line 3, after "rights" and before "of the" insert a comma "," and insert "welfare,  
47 and safety"

1 AMENDMENT NO. 4

2 On page 4, line 8, after "**when**" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 9, and insert  
3 "**he determines that a child or family may be in need of his assistance or**"

4 AMENDMENT NO. 5

5 On page 4, at the end of line 15, delete "**institutions**" and insert "**institution**"

6 AMENDMENT NO. 6

7 On page 4, line 26, after "**of the**" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 27 in its  
8 entirety and insert "**State Child Death Review Panel.**"

9 AMENDMENT NO. 7

10 On page 4, line 28, after "**services**" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 29 in its  
11 entirety and on page 5, delete line 1 in its entirety and insert "**and purpose of his position**  
12 "**and his contact information.**"

13 AMENDMENT NO. 8

14 On page 5, line 6, after "**undertaken by**" delete the remainder of the line and insert "**him,**  
15 "**within**"

16 AMENDMENT NO. 9

17 On page 5, at the beginning of line 11, delete "**of the**" and insert "**of his knowledge of the**"

18 AMENDMENT NO. 10

19 On page 5, delete lines 12 through 16 and at the beginning of line 17, change "**(2)**" to "**D.**"

20 AMENDMENT NO. 11

21 On page 5, delete lines 20 through 29 and on page 6, delete lines 1 through 26 and at the  
22 beginning of line 27 change "**K.**" to "**E.**"

23 AMENDMENT NO. 12

24 On page 6, delete line 29 and on page 7, delete line 1 and insert the following:

25 "**the state child ombudsman and the provisions of this Section.**

26 Section 2. R.S. 40:2019(C)(introductory paragraph) is hereby amended and  
27 reenacted and R.S. 40:2019(C)(23) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

28 §2019. Child death investigation

29 \* \* \*

30 C. Child Death Review Panel. There is established within the Louisiana  
31 Department of Health the Louisiana State Child Death Review Panel, hereinafter  
32 referred to as the "state panel", which shall be composed of ~~twenty-seven~~ **twenty-**  
33 **eight** persons. Members of the panel shall include:

34 \* \* \*

35 "**(23) The state child ombudsman or his designee.**

36 \* \* \*

37 Section 3. This Act shall become effective July 1, 2024."