OLR Bill Analysis

SB 453

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OMBUDSMAN OFFICE.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a Department of Children and Families (DCF) Ombudsman office within the Office of Governmental Accountability. Under the bill, the ombudsman is responsible for receiving, investigating, and making recommendations to the DCF commissioner for resolving complaints regarding services by DCF or its contractors.

The bill requires the office director to prepare and maintain a record of all complaints the office receives. Records must include (1) descriptions of the complaints, (2) information concerning any investigation the office undertook and any related findings, (3) the office’s recommendations to the DCF commissioner, and (4) the DCF commissioner’s responses, if any, to such recommendations. The office must make such records available, upon request, to the Office of the Child Advocate.

Under the bill, the office director is appointed by the governor with confirmation by the House or Senate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 14  Nay 0  (03/12/2019)