AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CHILD WELFARE AND POLICY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019) (a) There is established a Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee that shall monitor and evaluate policies and practices within the state's child welfare system with the goals of ensuring that (1) children are protected from abuse and neglect, (2) preventable child fatalities are reduced or eliminated, (3) children have permanency and stability in their living situations, are placed in family settings whenever possible and do not exit the child welfare system into homelessness, (4) children of color are not disproportionately represented in the child welfare system, (5) children timely receive appropriate and adequate services to meet their physical, mental health and developmental needs, (6) children do not remain in institutional settings longer than is necessary, and (7) state agencies collaborate to establish protocols for achieving such goals.

(b) The Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be advocates for children and families;

(2) Two members appointed by the president pro tempore of the
Senate, who shall be attorneys licensed in this state with expertise in legal issues concerning children;

(3) One member appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a pediatrician licensed in this state;

(4) One member appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a provider of behavioral health services for children;

(5) One member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a child psychiatrist licensed in this state;

(6) One member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a school superintendent;

(7) Five members appointed by the Commissioner of Children and Families, two of whom shall be providers of therapeutic or support services for families served by the Department of Children and Families, two of whom shall be representatives of private foundations that provide services to children and families in the state, and one of whom shall be the parent or guardian of a child diagnosed with mental, emotional or behavioral health issues;

(8) Three members appointed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, two of whom shall be providers of behavioral health services to children under the age of three, and one of whom shall be the parent or guardian of a child who has received such services;

(9) Two members appointed by the Commissioner of Developmental Services, one of whom shall be a provider of services to children with developmental disabilities, and one of whom shall be the parent or guardian of a child who has received such services;

(10) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee;
(11) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(12) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's designee;

(13) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

(14) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee;

(15) The Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's designee;

(16) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, or the executive director's designee; and

(17) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, or the chairpersons and ranking members' designees.

(c) All appointments to the committee shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Appointed members of the committee shall serve a three-year term, except that the members first appointed shall serve a two-year term. Any member may be reappointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term not later than thirty days after such vacancy.

(d) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, or the chairpersons' designees, and the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, or the executive director's designee, shall serve as chairpersons of the committee. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the committee, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. The
committee shall meet not less than quarterly.

(e) Each member shall be entitled to one vote on the committee. A majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum in the transaction of any business, the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty authorized or imposed by law.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2020, and not less than annually thereafter, the committee shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, (1) a description of the activities of the committee, (2) an evaluation of the efficacy of policies and practices within the state's child welfare system with respect to the goals set forth pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (3) recommendations for the improvement of policies and practices within the state's child welfare system.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Effect Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>New section</td>
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