

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-871

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

Title: AND FAMILIES OMBUDSMAN.

Vote Date: 3/15/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference to Appropriations

PH Date: 2/18/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

To add an ombudsman to the Department of Children and Families to better serve and protect children in the care and custody of the department.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Ann Adams, Director, Department of Children and Families opposes the bill. This legislation is unnecessary we already have two departments within DCF that acts as an ombudsman for children and families. We in the department have already restructured the Office of the Ombudsman into the Office of Community Relations. OCR serves as an unbiased, objective body within DCF to identify errors and to engage in transparent resolutions independently from DCF. Within DCF so the Office of the Child Advocate that monitors and evaluates public and private agencies that are charged with the protection of children. OCA has direct access to cases within DCF in real-time and is notified of significant events at the same time as the Commissioner and senior DCF managers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Submitted

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Submitted

Reported by: Pam Bianca

Date: April 5, 2021