

CHAPTER 19

CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC MATTERS

HOUSE BILL 97-1109

BY REPRESENTATIVES Adkins, Agler, Lawrence, Musgrave, Nichol, Reeser, Smith, and Sullivant;
also SENATOR Perlmutter.

AN ACT

CONCERNING A PLAN FOR THE PHASE-OUT OF THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF CHILD PROTECTION AS A
SEPARATE DATA BASE.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Part 3 of article 1 of title 19, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1986 Repl. Vol., as amended, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

19-1-312. Central registry phase out - implementation plan - repeal.

(1) **Legislative declaration.** THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT THE STATE OF COLORADO COULD PHASE OUT THE STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF CHILD PROTECTION AS A SEPARATE STATE PROGRAM WITH NO ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE STATE'S INTEREST IN PROTECTING CHILDREN PURSUANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

(2) **Implementation plan.** NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 1999, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE PHASE-OUT OF THE STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF CHILD PROTECTION. THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN SHALL ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

(a) THE ELIMINATION OF THE STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF CHILD PROTECTION AS A SEPARATELY MAINTAINED STATE DATA BASE CONTINGENT UPON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY AUTOMATION PROJECT THAT SHALL INCLUDE THE ABILITY TO TRACK REPORTS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT FOR COUNTY OR DISTRICT DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, AND PHYSICIANS ENGAGED IN THE INVESTIGATION AND

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT;

(b) THE ELIMINATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT SCREENING DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF CHILD PROTECTION BY PROVIDING THAT SUCH DUTIES SHALL BE PERFORMED BY ANOTHER AGENCY SUCH AS THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION;

(c) ALTERNATIVES FOR PARENTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS IN THEIR SELECTION OF CHILD CARE OPTIONS; AND

(d) AN ANALYSIS OF THE GENERAL FUND SAVINGS RESULTING FROM THE PHASING OUT OF THE STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF CHILD PROTECTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOW GENERAL FUND SAVINGS COULD BE UTILIZED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION SERVICES.

(3) **Repeal.** THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2000.

SECTION 2. No appropriation. The general assembly has determined that this act can be implemented within existing appropriations, and therefore no separate appropriation of state moneys is necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

SECTION 3. Effective date. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: March 20, 1997