



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ADOPTION DISRUPTION AND DISSOLUTION

Large Conference Room
One East Main Street, Suite 401
Madison, WI

December 16, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

[The following is a summary of the December 16, 2014 meeting of the Study Committee on Adoption Disruption and Dissolution. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc.>]

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Kleefisch called the committee to order. The roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT:

Rep. Joel Kleefisch, Chair; Rep. LaTonya Johnson, Vice-Chair; Reps. André Jacque and Paul Tittl; Sen. Nikiya Harris Dodd; and Public Members Sam Benedict, Oriana Carey, Mary Osgood, Ray Przybelski, Theresa Roetter, Mark Sanders, and Jaclyn Skalnik.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
EXCUSED:

Public Members Jill List and Heather Yaeger.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT:

Margit Kelley, Staff Attorney.

<p>ATTENTION: This was the final meeting of the Study Committee on Adoption Disruption and Dissolution. Committee members are requested to send any corrections regarding these Minutes to the Legislative Council staff. After the incorporation of any corrections, these Minutes will be considered approved by the committee.</p>
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Approval of the Minutes of the October 23, 2014 Meeting

The committee members unanimously approved the minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting.

Discussion of Bill Drafts

Each of the bill drafts and memos referred to in these minutes is available on the committee's website at: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/study/2014/1189>.

WLC: 0014/2, relating to jurisdiction and venue in adoption proceedings, and investigation of suitability of a home for adoption of a child

Ms. Kelley described draft WLC: 0014/2, regarding adoption jurisdiction and home studies. Ms. Kelley also described the draft's revisions from Version 1, which are summarized in Memo No. 4, and described the suggested revisions from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), which are relayed in Memo No. 3.

Mr. Przybelski moved, and Representative Jacque seconded, that draft WLC: 0014/2 be recommended to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction to the Legislature, with the revisions to this draft that are outlined in Memo No. 3. The motion carried by a vote of Ayes, 12 (Reps. Kleefisch, Johnson, Jacque, and Tittl; Sen. Harris Dodd; and Public Members Benedict, Carey, Osgood, Przybelski; Roetter, Sanders, and Skalnik); Noes, 0; and Absent, 2 (Public Members List and Yaeger).

WLC: 0022/2, relating to reinstatement of a biological parent's rights, and consideration of biological family members as a resource for placement or support, when a child is not allowed to return to adoptive home

Chair Kleefisch stated that draft WLC: 0022/2, regarding reinstatement for biological family rights, will not be submitted to a vote by the committee, and stated that he will continue to work with interested parties on this draft during the upcoming legislative session.

WLC: 0023/2, relating to agreement by adoptive family for postadoption contact with the child's birth parent

Chair Kleefisch stated that draft WLC: 0023/2, regarding open adoption, will not be submitted to a vote by the committee, and stated that he will continue to work with interested parties on this draft during the upcoming legislative session.

WLC: 0029/2, relating to preadoption preparation requirements, referrals to postadoption resource centers, and granting rule-making authority

Ms. Kelley described draft WLC: 0029/2, regarding adoption preparation training. Ms. Kelley also described the draft's revisions from Version 1, which are summarized in Memo No.

4, and described the suggested revisions from Chair Kleefisch, which are relayed in Memo No. 2, and the suggested revisions from DCF, which are relayed in Memo No. 3. In response to a question from Ms. Roetter, Ms. Kelley stated that the draft does not alter current law provisions on who must receive preadoptive training.

Ms. Roetter suggested that licensed adoption agencies be given the authority to approve preadoption preparation training given by an agency from another state, in order to simplify that process.

Representative Tittl moved, and Representative Johnson seconded, that draft WLC: 0029/2 be recommended to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction to the Legislature, with the following revisions to this draft: (1) the items outlined in Memo No. 2; (2) the first, third, and fourth items outlined in Memo No. 3; and (3) allowing approval of equivalent preadoptive training from another state to be given by a licensed child placing agency. The motion carried by a vote of Ayes, 12 (Reps. Kleefisch, Johnson, Jacque, and Tittl; Sen. Harris Dodd; and Public Members Benedict, Carey, Osgood, Przybelski; Roetter, Sanders, and Skalnik); Noes, 0; and Absent, 2 (Public Members List and Yaeger).

WLC: 0030/2, relating to readoption of a child adopted by a resident of this state under an order of a court of a foreign jurisdiction

Ms. Kelley described draft WLC: 0030/2, regarding readoption after adoption abroad. Ms. Kelley also described the draft's revision from Version 1, which is summarized in Memo No. 4, and described the suggested revision from Chair Kleefisch, which is relayed in Memo No. 2.

Representative Jacque moved, and Ms. Osgood seconded, that draft WLC: 0030/2 be recommended to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction to the Legislature, with the revision to this draft that is outlined in Memo No. 2. The motion carried by a vote of Ayes, 12 (Reps. Kleefisch, Johnson, Jacque, and Tittl; Sen. Harris Dodd; and Public Members Benedict, Carey, Osgood, Przybelski; Roetter, Sanders, and Skalnik); Noes, 0; and Absent, 2 (Public Members List and Yaeger).

WLC: 0031/2, relating to including a statement as to whether a child has been adopted in a petition or written agreement for a proceeding under the Children's Code or Juvenile Justice Code and in a petition for guardianship of a minor

Ms. Kelley described draft WLC: 0031/2, regarding tracking when an adopted child enters the child welfare system. Ms. Kelley also described the draft's revisions from Version 1, which are summarized in Memo No. 4, and described the suggested revisions received from DCF, which are relayed in Memo No. 5.

In response to a question from Representative Tittl, Chair Kleefisch recognized Kimberly Liedl, a representative from DCF, from the audience, who stated that the department anticipates that it will be able to absorb any additional workload from the reporting requirements created under the bill draft. She noted that the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 requires the same reporting to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which will then simply be relayed as well to the Governor and Legislature under a state reporting timeline.

Ms. Roetter moved, and Representative Jacque seconded, that draft WLC: 0031/2 be recommended to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction to the Legislature, with the revisions to this draft that are outlined in Memo No. 5. The motion carried by a vote of Ayes, 12 (Reps. Kleefisch, Johnson, Jacque, and Tittl; Sen. Harris Dodd; and Public Members Benedict, Carey, Osgood, Przybelski; Roetter, Sanders, and Skalnik); Noes, 0; and Absent, 2 (Public Members List and Yaeger).

Discussion of Committee Assignment

Ms. Kelley stated that the drafts would be revised to reflect the modifications approved by the committee, and would be submitted to the members, by mail ballot, to ratify the revisions incorporated into a final "Version 3" of each bill draft.

Chair Kleefisch thanked the members for their service on the committee, and invited members to attend and speak at hearings on the bill drafts as they move through the legislative process.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

MSK:jal