

IC 2-5-36

Chapter 36. Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

IC 2-5-36-1

Definitions

Sec. 1. The following definitions apply throughout this chapter:

- (1) "Commission" refers to the commission on improving the status of children in Indiana established by section 3 of this chapter.
- (2) "Vulnerable youth" means a child served by:
 - (A) the department of child services;
 - (B) the office of the secretary of family and social services;
 - (C) the department of correction; or
 - (D) a juvenile probation department.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-2

"State agency"

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "state agency" has the meaning set forth in IC 4-6-3-1.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-3

Commission established

Sec. 3. The commission on improving the status of children in Indiana is established.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-4

Membership of commission

Sec. 4. The commission consists of eighteen (18) members as follows:

- (1) One (1) legislative member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (2) One (1) legislative member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.
- (3) One (1) legislative member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.
- (4) One (1) legislative member appointed by the minority leader of the senate.
- (5) The superintendent of public instruction.
- (6) The director of the department of child services.
- (7) One (1) judge or justice with experience in juvenile law appointed by the chief justice of Indiana to serve on the commission for a period of four (4) years.
- (8) The executive director of the prosecuting attorneys council of Indiana.

- (9) The executive director of the public defender council of Indiana.
- (10) The secretary of family and social services.
- (11) The state health commissioner.
- (12) The director of the department of correction division of youth services.
- (13) One (1) representative of the juvenile probation system, appointed by the chief justice of Indiana for a period of four (4) years.
- (14) The director of the office of management and budget, or the director of the state budget agency, as selected by the governor.
- (15) A member of the governor's staff, to be appointed by the governor.
- (16) The executive director of the division of state court administration.
- (17) The director of the division of mental health and addiction.
- (18) The attorney general, who shall serve as a nonvoting member.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-5

Chairperson; agenda

Sec. 5. (a) The judge or justice appointed under section 4(7) of this chapter shall serve as the chairperson of the commission in calendar year 2013 and every third year thereafter.

(b) The chairperson of the legislative council shall designate one (1) legislative member of the commission to serve as the chairperson of the commission in calendar year 2014 and every third year thereafter.

(c) The member of the governor's staff appointed under section 4(15) of this chapter shall serve as the chairperson of the commission in calendar year 2015 and every third year thereafter.

(d) The chairperson shall determine the agenda for the commission.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-6

Removal of legislative member; vacancy

Sec. 6. (a) A legislative member of the commission may be removed at any time by the appointing authority who appointed the legislative member.

(b) If a vacancy exists on the commission, the appointing authority who appointed the former member whose position has become vacant shall appoint an individual to fill the vacancy.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-7

Per diem, mileage, and travel expenses

Sec. 7. Each member of the commission is entitled to receive the same per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid to individuals who serve as legislative and lay members, respectively, of interim study committees established by the legislative council.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-8**Voting requirements**

Sec. 8. The affirmative votes of a majority of the members appointed to the commission are required for the commission to take action on any measure, including final reports.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-9**Duties of the commission**

Sec. 9. (a) The commission shall do the following:

- (1) Study and evaluate the following:
 - (A) Access to services for vulnerable youth.
 - (B) Availability of services for vulnerable youth.
 - (C) Duplication of services for vulnerable youth.
 - (D) Funding of services available for vulnerable youth.
 - (E) Barriers to service for vulnerable youth.
 - (F) Communication and cooperation by agencies concerning vulnerable youth.
 - (G) Implementation of programs or laws concerning vulnerable youth.
 - (H) The consolidation of existing entities that serve vulnerable youth.
 - (I) Data from state agencies relevant to evaluating progress, targeting efforts, and demonstrating outcomes.
 - (J) Crimes of sexual violence against children.
 - (K) The impact of social networking web sites, cellular telephones and wireless communications devices, digital media, and new technology on crimes against children.
- (2) Review and make recommendations concerning pending legislation.
- (3) Promote information sharing concerning vulnerable youth across the state.
- (4) Promote best practices, policies, and programs.
- (5) Cooperate with:
 - (A) other child focused commissions;
 - (B) the judicial branch of government;
 - (C) the executive branch of government;
 - (D) stakeholders; and
 - (E) members of the community.
- (6) Submit a report not later than July 1 of each year regarding the commission's work during the previous year. The report

shall be submitted to the legislative council, the governor, and the chief justice of Indiana. The report to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

(b) Not later than November 1, 2016, the commission shall:

- (1) study and evaluate innovative juvenile justice programs, including juvenile community corrections; and
- (2) consult with the justice reinvestment advisory council under IC 33-38-9.5 concerning how funds should be distributed for innovative juvenile justice programs and juvenile community corrections.

The commission shall submit a report, not later than December 1, 2016, regarding the commission's work required under this subsection. The report shall be submitted to the legislative council, the governor, and the chief justice of Indiana. The report to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6. This subsection expires January 1, 2018.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.156-2014, SEC.1; P.L.88-2016, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-9.5

Submit recommendations before January 1, 2016

Sec. 9.5. (a) The commission shall, before January 1, 2016, submit to the general assembly in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 and the governor's office recommendations concerning the following:

- (1) New methods or mechanisms for carrying out policies relating to abandoned children, including the use of newborn safety incubators (as defined in IC 16-35-9-4).
- (2) The production and distribution of information concerning the laws regarding emergency custody of abandoned children under IC 31-34-2.5.
- (3) The advisability of establishing and posting uniform signs regarding locations at which children may be voluntarily left with an emergency medical services provider under IC 31-34-2.5.

(b) This section expires July 1, 2016.

As added by P.L.61-2015, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-10

Requesting and receiving information

Sec. 10. The commission may do the following:

- (1) Request information or a presentation from an agency involved with vulnerable youth.
- (2) Request and review outcome data from an agency related to vulnerable youth.
- (3) Receive information from experts concerning vulnerable youth.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-11

Staff support

Sec. 11. The Indiana judicial center shall provide support staff for the commission.

As added by P.L.119-2013, SEC.1.

IC 2-5-36-12

Expiration

Sec. 12. The commission and this chapter expire January 1, 2019.

As added by P.L.53-2014, SEC.42.