

HB 1123 -- PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Kelly (141)

This bill adds "guardian ad litem" to the listed individuals that may petition for the termination of parental rights, specific adoption or waiver for consent to adopt (Section 211.444 & 211.447 RSMo).

The bill changes the age for abandoned infant from one year to three years old, and sets a time frame of 60 days prior to a petition of termination of parental rights to be considered for willful, substantial, and continual neglect by the parent clarifying current language. This bill adds felonies in Chapters 565, 567, and 568 to the current felony chapters for which a parent if guilty and the victim is a child shall lose parental rights, along with if the child has been in foster care for 15 months out of 22 months (Section 211.447).

The bill repeals payment for adoption legal fees by the prospective adoptive parents for a birth parent, and allows the court to determine if representation is needed for the birth parent in an adoption proceedings (Section 453.030).

Currently consent to the adoption of a child is required by a parent unless the child is under the age of one and the parent, for at least six months, has neglected to provide the child with necessary care and protection. This bill changes the age from one to three (Section 453.040).