

HOUSE BILL NO. 416

INTRODUCED BY D. LENZ

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPERVISORS IN THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM; AMENDING SECTION 52-2-111, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 52-2-111, MCA, is amended to read:

"52-2-111. Administrative duties of department. (1) Subject to the authority and regulations of the department and in cooperation with the federal government, the department shall:

(a) adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this part; and

(b) administer or supervise all child welfare services of the state.

(2) The department division responsible for administering child welfare services shall require a master's degree in social work for ALL employees hired as district supervisors or supervisors of field staff TO COMPLETE ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE SUPERVISORY TRAINING.

(3) THE ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE SUPERVISORY TRAINING MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO QUALIFYING CHILD PROTECTION SPECIALISTS WHO DEMONSTRATE AN INTEREST AND APTITUDE IN BECOMING A SUPERVISOR IN THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM."

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Transition. To implement the provisions of [this act], the department shall:

(1) allow ALL division employees who are in supervisory positions on [the effective date of this act] 4 years to obtain a master's degree in social work if the employee does not have the degree SHALL COMPLETE AN INITIAL ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE SUPERVISORY TRAINING WITHIN 1 YEAR OF [THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT]; and

(2) allow ALL department employees who are hired AFTER [THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT] to fill a supervisory position 2 years from the date of hire to obtain a master's degree in social work if the employee

1 ~~does not have the degree~~ SHALL COMPLETE AN INITIAL ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE SUPERVISORY TRAINING WITHIN 1
2 YEAR OF THE DATE OF HIRING.

3 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL UPDATE THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM
4 COMMITTEE DURING THE 2021-2022 INTERIM ON ITS PROGRESS IN COMPLYING WITH THE PROVISIONS OF [THIS ACT].

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6 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2021.

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8 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Applicability. [Section 1] applies to individuals hired for supervisory
9 positions on or after July 1, 2021.

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