

HCS HB 290 -- ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS (Lichtenegger)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing

This substitute adds licensed professional counselors and psychologists that are associated with licensed child placement agencies and social workers to the list of people authorized to conduct a full investigation into whether an individual is suitable as an adoptive parent for a child.

This substitute requires a court conducting a final adoption hearing to make sure that it has received and reviewed an investigation report required under Section 453.070, RSMo, if any, and an investigation and social study required under Section 211.455, if any.

By January 1, 2014, the Missouri Supreme Court must develop a standardized form to be used in all adoption cases which includes a checklist to verify that all the documents and procedures required by law have been submitted, followed, and reviewed by the judge prior to the entry of a final order. The form and attachments must be included as part of the adoption record.