

HCS HB 1074 -- OFFICE OF CHILD ADVOCATE AUDITS

SPONSOR: Lant

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill allows the Office of Child Advocate to conduct an audit of any county entity including children's division, juvenile office, and guardian ad litem processes when the office receives three or more review requests for the same county entity in a calendar year. The audit may include record requests and inquiries for information with the goal of improving the delivery of services and the efficiency of processes and procedures. The office may produce findings and recommendations based on the audit which will be forward to the Office of State Courts Administrator and the Children's Division within the Missouri Department of Social Services.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will improve child services and respond to legitimate worries about the system. Different judicial circuits have vastly differing procedures and practices and it is necessary to conduct reviews to ensure that all children receive adequate protection throughout the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lant and Missouri Kids First.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.