

CHAPTER 539

(House Bill 1093)

AN ACT concerning

Family Law - Children in Out-of-Home Placements

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing a court to find a certain child to be abandoned under certain circumstances;~~ altering the purpose of certain provisions of law governing adoption and guardianship; altering the factors that a court is required to consider in determining whether it is in the best interest of a child to terminate a natural parent's rights as to the child; adding to the continuing or serious conditions or acts a court is required to consider in determining whether it is in the best interest of a certain child to terminate the natural parent's rights; requiring ~~authorizing~~ requiring a court to waive certain obligations of a child placement agency under certain circumstances; ~~requiring that notice of a certain petition for guardianship be given in a certain manner;~~ requiring a court to make a specific finding as to whether or not the return of a child to the custody of the natural parent poses an unacceptable risk to the future safety of the child under certain circumstances; adding the Armed Forces of the United States to the list of agencies and persons that a local department of social services is required to contact before a court shall determine that a reasonable, good faith effort has been made to identify the address of a natural parent; prohibiting an adoption subsidy from being denied to a certain child whose adoption has been dissolved or whose adoptive parents have died under certain circumstances; requiring the Social Services Administration, in establishing an out-of-home placement program, to provide certain reunification services and concurrently develop and implement a certain permanency plan; requiring certain reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families under certain circumstances; adding to the factors a local department of social services is required to consider in determining the permanency plan that is in the best interests of a child; requiring a local department of social services to file a petition for termination of parental rights or join a termination of parental rights action that has been filed under certain circumstances; requiring local foster care review boards to review children in out-of-home placements in accordance with certain local plans; making certain conforming changes in certain provisions of law relating to foster care review boards; requiring ~~authorizing~~ a local department of social services to request a court to find that reasonable efforts to reunify the child with the child's parent are not required under certain circumstances; ~~requiring~~ authorizing ~~requiring~~ a court to waive the requirement that reasonable efforts be made under certain circumstances; requiring the local department to take certain actions if the court finds that reasonable efforts are not required; altering the time period within which a court is required to hold a permanency planning hearing; prohibiting a court from continuing certain children in placement unless it makes a certain finding; requiring the court to order a certain party to file a certain petition within a certain time period; providing that the court is not required to hold certain review hearings under certain circumstances; requiring a court to evaluate