

Act No. 170 (S.183). Human services

An act relating to permanency for children in the child welfare system

This act makes various changes to the permanent guardianship, child in need of care or supervision (CHINS), and juvenile delinquency chapters, including:

- clarifying that upon a finding that termination of parental rights is in the best interest of the child, the court is not required to rule out first permanent guardianship as an option
- narrowing the requirements that must be met before a court will grant permanent guardianship
- providing that a successor permanent guardian may be named in a permanent guardianship order
- expanding postadoption contact agreements so they are available to children under conditional custody orders with relatives or other people with a significant relationship with the child
- shortening the presumptive duration of conditional custody orders issued under the CHINS and juvenile delinquency chapters from two years to six months
- providing for protective supervision at the disposition stage of a CHINS proceeding
- providing a mechanism to restore legal rights to a parent where an adoption is dissolved or the child has not been adopted three years after the parent's rights were terminated

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2016