

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB1017
Version:	INT
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Lawson
Date:	3/13/2023
Impact:	Creates a new revolving fund, see below

Research Analysis

HB1017 creates the Family Representation and Advocacy Act which creates the Family Representation and Advocacy Program within the Administrative Office of the Courts in order to ensure uniform and high-quality legal representation for children and parents or guardians in deprived child actions. The central office will work statewide with judicial districts and attorneys by contracting with, training, compensating, and supporting legal counsel for children, indigent parents, legal guardians, and Indian custodians appointed by the court. The Program must ensure that all counsel have the training, support, and access to provide uniform and high-quality legal representation.

The measure provides for the hiring of an executive director for the program who will then hire all staff. The Program will have authority to contract with an legal entity and social workers as needed. The existing Offices of Public Offender will continue to provide representation for children in deprived children proceedings and may elect to contract with the Program. The Program will prioritize judicial districts where attorneys are unavailable for court appointments or are minimally compensated and ensure that counsel and interdisciplinary contractors are adequately compensated.

The measure also creates the Family Representation and Advocacy Program Board, which will consist of 12 members. Member requirements and board duties are outlined in the measure. The measure also outlines the creation of a revolving fund for the Program and requires an annual report to be transmitted to the Legislature no later than December 31 each year.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach

Fiscal Analysis

HB 1017 creates a new revolving fund within the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Family Representation and Advocacy Program. The purpose of the Family Representation and Advocacy Program shall be to ensure uniform and high-quality legal representation for children, indigent parents, legal guardians, and Indian custodians in deprived child actions brought by the state.

Prepared By: Stacy Johnson, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

