

HJR 48 and HJR 49: Child Protective Services

HJR 48 asks for a study of ways to support families who are involved in the child protective services system, while HJR 49 asks for a study of the appropriate role of law enforcement and the judiciary in that system. The Committee decided to combine these two studies and devote a significant amount of time to the effort. The table below shows anticipated study activities.

Study Task	Meeting Date	Committee Time
1. Examine the rights of parents and children, any infringements on those rights that may occur under current law and practices, and the rights of parents to parent their children	September and November 2019	2 hours
2. Examine the effects that child abuse and neglect cases have on local law enforcement officers, county attorneys, and district courts	September and November 2019	2 hours
3. Examine the use of court orders in child removal cases and the historical and optimal role of law enforcement officers with DPHHS during removal of children from their homes	November 2019 and January 2020	1 hour
4. Examine the interaction of the Office of the Child and Family Ombudsman with DPHHS, law enforcement officials, and the court system	November 2019 or January 2020	1 hours
5. Examine barriers to reunifying children with their parents after removal from the home, including barriers related to mental health and substance abuse problems	November 2019 through March 2020	2 hours
6. Examine resources that are or could be made available to strengthen families, improve the rate of family reunification, or speed up the reunification process	November 2019 through March 2020	2 hours
7. Examine steps that could be taken to mitigate the power differential between child protective services workers and clients	January through March 2020	1.5 hours
8. Examine whether DPHHS or other practices should be changed in order to reduce child removals, increase reunifications, mitigate power differentials, and support activities allowed under the Family First Prevention Services Act	January through June 2020	3 hours
9. Examine steps DPHHS is taking or needs to take to prepare to obtain funding under the Family First Prevention Services Act	March through August 2020	1 hour
10. Work on a parental bill of rights	March through August 2020	2 hours
11. Determine whether guardianship laws in this area should be revised	January through May 2020	.5 hours
12. Review information, make recommendations, develop legislation as necessary	March through August 2020	12 hours
	Total	30 hours