

Proposal for Legislation – 2023 Legislative Session Repeal Citizen Review Board Program Act

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1. What is the problem or issue?

This program is attached to the Office of the Court Administrator and is unfunded. These review boards are no longer operational in the state because there is no funding; the last time one of these boards was established was in 2003. Each area of Montana has already established foster care review boards that meet monthly, are comprised of multi-disciplinary teams, and which conduct the same types of review contemplated by this Act.

2. What do you want the legislation to do?

Repeal MCA Title 41-3 Part 10, which creates the authority for a district court judge to establish a Citizen's Review Board in their respective judicial district to review the case of each child in the custody of the department and in foster care. MCA 41-3-115 grants Foster Care Review Committees the same authorities as Citizen Review Boards.

3. If possible, please list the MCA (Montana Code Annotated) sections that would need to be amended.

Title 41-3 Part 10 (MCA 41-3-1001 – 1013); MCA 41-3-115

4. If the proposed change requires additional funding, what funding sources do you propose?

This proposed change does not require additional funding.

5. Has similar legislation been requested in the past, been introduced in another state, or provided as a model act? If so, please provide a citation, reference, or point of contact.

Similar legislation has not been requested in the past in Montana. CFSD is unaware if other states have Citizen Review Boards. All states are required to conduct a 6-month review of children in foster care. Montana meets the federal requirement through the process of Foster Care Review Committees (MCA 41-3-115)