

LAWS OF DELAWARE
VOLUME 84
CHAPTER 43
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORMERLY
SENATE BILL NO. 33

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend Chapter 90, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 9015. Budgeting and financing.

(a) The Secretary, in cooperation with the Department directors and office administrators, shall prepare a proposed budget for the operation of the Department to be submitted for the consideration of the Governor and the General Assembly. The Department must operate within the limitation of the annual appropriation and any other funds appropriated by the General Assembly.

(b) Each fiscal year, pursuant to established methodology, the Secretary and the Office of Management and Budget shall review projections on the number of child abuse and neglect cases for the next fiscal year. Based on these projections, the General Assembly shall fund, subject to a specific appropriation, funds and positions for the next fiscal year, beginning each July 1, to the Division of Family Services to provide:

(1) An adequate number of child protection investigation workers so that regional caseloads do not exceed 11 cases per fully functioning worker.

(2) An adequate number of child protection treatment workers so that regional caseloads do not exceed ~~18~~ 12 cases per fully functioning worker.

(3) An adequate number of Family Service supervisors so that there is 1 supervisor for every 5 workers.

(4) An adequate number of training positions, but not less than 15, to ensure that fully trained staff are always available to fill vacancies.

(5)-(7) [Repealed.]

In the event that regional caseloads exceed the above set standards during any fiscal year, the Office of Management and Budget shall, to the extent moneys are available, authorize the use of casual seasonal positions as a temporary mechanism to ensure that caseloads remain within Delaware standards. Fully functioning workers are workers that are employed and working full-time, and do not include workers on extended medical leave, trainees who have not completed training, or workers with restricted caseloads.

(c) In order to ensure the standards set forth in subsection (b) of this section are maintained, the Secretary shall submit a quarterly report to the Governor, the Controller General, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, with copies to the Chairpersons of the House of Representatives Committee on Health and

Human Development, the Senate Committee on Children, Youth and Their Families, and the Child Protection Accountability Commission that details the above information both statewide and on a regional basis.

Approved June 9, 2023