

Summary of 2014 Legislation Impacting The Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

SEA 80 – Interim Study Committee Structure

- Summary of Legislation:
 - Eliminates various study and advisory committees, and obsolete provisions governing legislative evaluation and oversight.
 - Establishes 17 interim study committees with authority to study legislative topics and permits the legislative council to establish additional interim study committees.
 - Specifies uniform policies to govern interim study committees.

- Impact on Commission:
 - SEA 80 exempts the Commission from the uniform policies and procedures established by the legislation to govern Interim Study Committees. This means the Commission may continue to operate as it has over the past year.

SEA 227 – Alcohol and Medical Emergencies; Crime Studies

- Summary of Legislation:
 - Provides that a person is immune from arrest or prosecution for certain alcohol offenses if the arrest or prosecution is due to the person:
 - reporting a medical emergency;
 - being the victim of a sex offense; or
 - witnessing and reporting what the person believes to be a crime. (*Current law provides immunity from arrest or prosecution only if the person reports a medical emergency that is due to alcohol consumption.*)
 - Establishes a mitigating circumstance for the sentencing of a person convicted of a controlled substance offense if the person's arrest or prosecution was facilitated in part because the person requested emergency medical assistance for an individual in need of medical assistance due to the use of alcohol or a controlled substance.
 - Allows a court to defer entering a judgment of conviction for an individual arrested for an alcohol offense if the individual was arrested after a report that the person needed medical assistance due to the use of alcohol if certain conditions are met.
 - Amends statute to allow certain health care providers to prescribe, and a pharmacist to dispense, an overdose intervention drug to an advanced emergency medical technician, an emergency medical responder, an emergency medical technician, a firefighter or volunteer firefighter, a law enforcement officer, or a paramedic. The law also authorizes those individuals to administer an overdose intervention drug to a person suffering from an overdose.

- Requires the commission on improving the status of children in Indiana to study and evaluate: (1) crimes of sexual violence against children; and (2) the impact of social media, wireless communications, digital media, and new technology on crimes against children.
- Requires the state department of health or the office of women's health to conduct a study to determine:
 - the number of persons who are the victims of crimes of domestic or sexual violence,
 - the reasons why these crimes are underreported, best practices to improve reporting, and
 - the most effective means to connect victims with appropriate treatment services.
- Establishes a framework for the study, and permits the department of health or the office of women's health to contract with a third party to conduct the study.
- Urges the legislative council to assign to the appropriate study committee during the 2014 interim the task of studying the causes of violence and violent crime in Indiana.
- Impact on the Commission:
 - SEA 227 requires the Commission to study and evaluate two new topics:
 - Crimes of sexual violence against children.
 - The impact of social networking web sites, cellular telephones and wireless communications devices, digital media, and new technology on crimes against children.