

Chapter 45

2022 Regular Session

Subject Guardianship for At-Risk Juveniles

Bill H.F. 2671/S.F. 2736 (passed)

Analyst Mary Mullen

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Summary

This act creates a new guardianship procedure in the juvenile court for youths aged 18 to 21 to have a guardian appointed to meet the youth's needs or to protect the youth from trafficking or abuse. It also provides jurisdiction for at-risk juvenile guardianships in the juvenile court.

Sections 1 to 12 provide definitions and petition requirements for an at-risk juvenile guardianship petition. Provides for a right to counsel in the guardianship proceeding in juvenile court and service and notice requirements. Provides that the court must issue an order for a juvenile guardianship when the juvenile and guardian both agree to the guardianship and it is in the juvenile's best interest; reunification with a parent is not viable due to abandonment, abuse, or neglect; and the juvenile cannot return to their previous country of nationality or the juvenile's parents.

This act also provides how a new guardian can be appointed and for the guardianship to automatically terminate when the juvenile reaches the age of 21, or when the juvenile requests for the guardianship to end.