

## HB 2103 -- Termination of Parental Rights

Sponsor: Stevenson

This bill changes the laws regarding voluntary termination of parental rights. The bill:

(1) Specifies that whenever a child is placed in a foster home, a preference for placement with relatives will not apply if the parent has consented in writing to the termination of his or her parental rights;

(2) Specifies that whenever a child is taken into custody by a juvenile officer or law enforcement official and initially placed with the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services, the requirement for a family support team meeting will not apply if the parent has consented in writing to the termination of his or her parental rights;

(3) Specifies that some juvenile court proceedings and cases initiated by a juvenile officer or the division for the termination of parental rights will have a closed hearing if the parent has consented in writing to the termination of his or her parental rights; and

(4) Adds child placing agencies to the list of interested parties who may petition the juvenile court to terminate parental rights.