



### Effective Implementation of Local CSA Programs

New regional consultants would provide technical assistance to local CSA programs and coordinators.

#### Amendments

- HB30: [Item 285 #2h](#) (Plum)
- SB30: [Item 285 #2s](#) (Hanger)

#### Background

- A November 2020 report on the Children’s Services Act (CSA) by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) made several recommendations about ways to ensure effective implementation of the CSA program at the local level.
- The 2021 General Assembly approved HB 2212 (Plum) that included several JLARC recommendations and new responsibilities for the Office of Children’s Services to implement them. Accompanying language in the Appropriations Act directed OCS to prepare a plan to implement these new responsibilities; a workgroup was convened in 2021 to assist with a plan.
- One recommendation of the workgroup was for the hiring of four regional consultants at the Office of Children’s Services who would provide additional assistance to local CSA programs

#### What these amendments would accomplish

These amendments would fund four regional consultants within the Office of Children’s Services. These consultants would provide technical assistance to local CSA programs and CSA coordinators.

#### Why VML supports these amendments

- CSA is an increasingly complex program and local program administrators must comply with federal requirements in the Medicaid and Title IV-E programs as well as all state statutes and policies.
- The regional consultants are intended to provide additional support to local programs, such as training for local coordinators, helping to organize regional collaborative efforts such as joint negotiation of rates, helping to address regional service delivery gaps, and assisting with the implementation of quality improvement plans.

VML Contact: Janet Areson, [jareson@vml.org](mailto:jareson@vml.org)