



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4879

by Rep. Jed Davis

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 505/5c-1 new

Amends the Children and Family Services Act. Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to maintain a public, searchable online portal that lists every individual employed by the Department or a purchase of service agency (POS) who holds a Child Welfare Employee License (CWEL) and performs investigations, casework, or supervisory functions. Requires the portal to contain certain employee information, including, but not limited to, each child welfare employee's full name, official job title, CWEL license number and date of issuance, employment and child welfare employee license status, an indication of whether the individual is authorized to conduct child welfare investigations, and any disciplinary actions taken under the Child and Protective Investigator and Child Welfare Specialist Certification Act of 1987. Prohibits the Department and POS agencies from assigning investigative or casework duties to any child welfare employee who is not listed on the portal, has a suspended or expired CWEL, or has been disciplined or disqualified. Provides that nothing in the amendatory Act shall be construed to alter, expand, or limit existing licensure, certification, training, experience, or assignment requirements under State law. Effective January 1, 2027.

LRB104 18901 KTG 32346 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended
5 by adding Section 5c-1 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/5c-1 new)

7 Sec. 5c-1. Child welfare employee transparency portal.

8 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds the following:

9 (1) Families have the right to know who is entering
10 their home and making decisions regarding child safety.

11 (2) The Department of Children and Family Services and
12 purchase of service (POS) agencies that contract with the
13 Department employ individuals whose licensure and
14 qualifications are not easily verified.

15 (3) A public, searchable database increases
16 accountability, prevents misuse of titles, and helps
17 ensure only properly certified child welfare workers
18 investigate cases.

19 (4) The purpose of this Section is to require full
20 transparency of child welfare employee identity,
21 credentials, Child Welfare Employee License (CWEL) status,
22 and disciplinary actions.

23 (b) Definitions. As used in this Section:

1 "Authorized to conduct child welfare investigations" means
2 an individual who holds an active Child Welfare Employee
3 License and meets the applicable requirements and
4 qualifications for certification under subsection (d) of
5 Section 21 of this Act and under the Child Protective
6 Investigator and Child Welfare Specialist Certification Act of
7 1987, and who is assigned by the Department to perform child
8 welfare investigations.

9 "Certification and qualification" means the education,
10 training, experience, and competency requirements applicable
11 to child welfare functions in accordance with the Child
12 Protective Investigator and Child Welfare Specialist
13 Certification Act of 1987, as determined by existing law and
14 rule.

15 "Licensure" means an active Child Welfare Employee License
16 issued in accordance with Section 5c of this Act.

17 (c) Public transparency portal.

18 (1) The Department shall maintain a public, searchable
19 online portal that lists every individual who:

20 (A) holds a Child Welfare Employee License (CWEL);

21 (B) performs investigations, casework, or
22 supervisory functions; and

23 (C) is employed by the Department or a POS agency
24 that contracts with the Department.

25 (2) The portal shall include the following information
26 on each child welfare employee listed:

1 (A) full legal name;

2 (B) official job title;

3 (C) employer agency;

4 (D) child welfare employee license number and date
5 of issuance;

6 (E) child welfare employee license status (active,
7 inactive, suspended, or revoked);

8 (F) certification and qualification status (met or
9 not met) in accordance with requirements under
10 subsection (d) of Section 21 of this Act and the Child
11 Protective Investigator and Child Welfare Specialist
12 Certification Act of 1987;

13 (G) an indication of whether the individual is
14 authorized to conduct child welfare investigations,
15 based on licensure and certification status;

16 (H) employment status (active or suspended);

17 (I) any disciplinary actions taken under the Child
18 Protective Investigator and Child Welfare Specialist
19 Certification Act of 1987; and

20 (J) the last date upon which the child welfare
21 employee submitted to a criminal history background
22 check.

23 (3) The portal shall be updated within 48 hours of any
24 change in a child welfare employee's licensing,
25 disciplinary, or employment status.

26 (d) Prohibited assignments. The Department and POS

1 agencies that contract with the Department may not assign
2 investigative or casework duties to any child welfare employee
3 who:

4 (1) is not listed on the portal;

5 (2) has a suspended or expired CWEL; or

6 (3) has been disciplined or disqualified under
7 subsection (e) or under the Child Protective Investigator
8 and Child Welfare Specialist Certification Act of 1987.

9 (e) Penalties. POS agencies that contract with the
10 Department that knowingly assign investigation or casework
11 duties to unlicensed or unlisted individuals shall be subject
12 to mandatory corrective action.

13 (f) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to alter,
14 expand, or limit existing licensure, certification, training,
15 experience, or assignment requirements under State law.

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
17 1, 2027.