- 1 AN ACT in relation to children.
- 2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
- 3 represented in the General Assembly:
- 4 Section 5. The Child Care Act of 1969 is amended by
- 5 adding Section 7.3 as follows:
- 6 (225 ILCS 10/7.3 new)
- 7 Sec. 7.3. Children placed by private child welfare
- 8 <u>agency</u>.
- 9 (a) Before placing a child who is a ward of the
- 10 <u>Department in a foster family home, a private child welfare</u>
- 11 agency must ascertain (i) whether any other children who are
- 12 wards of the Department have been placed in that home and
- 13 (ii) whether every such child who has been placed in that
- 14 <u>home continues to reside in that home, unless the child has</u>
- 15 <u>been transferred to another placement or is no longer a ward</u>
- of the Department. The agency must keep a record of every
- 17 other child welfare agency that has placed such a child in
- 18 that foster family home; the record must include the name and
- 19 <u>telephone number of a contact person at each such agency.</u>
- 20 (b) At least once every 30 days, a private child welfare
- 21 agency that places wards of the Department in foster family
- 22 <u>homes must make a site visit to every such home where it has</u>
- 23 placed a ward. The purpose of the site visit is to verify
- 24 that the child continues to reside in that home and to verify
- 25 the child's safety and well-being. The agency must document
- 26 <u>the verification in its records. If a private child welfare</u>
- 27 <u>agency fails to comply with the requirements of this</u>
- 28 <u>subsection</u>, the Department must suspend all payments to the
- 29 <u>agency until the agency complies.</u>
- 30 (c) The Department must periodically (but no less often
- 31 <u>than once every 6 months) review the child placement records</u>

- of each private child welfare agency that places wards of the
- 2 <u>Department</u>.
- 3 (d) If a child placed in a foster family home is
- 4 <u>missing</u>, the foster parent must promptly report that fact to
- 5 the Department or to the child welfare agency that placed the
- 6 child in the home. If the foster parent fails to make such a
- 7 report, the Department shall put the home on hold for the
- 8 placement of other children and initiate corrective action
- 9 that may include revocation of the foster parent's license to
- 10 operate the foster family home. A foster parent who knowingly
- 11 and willfully fails to report a missing foster child under
- this subsection is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.
- (e) If a private child welfare agency determines that a
- 14 ward of the Department whom it has placed in a foster family
- 15 <u>home no longer resides in that home, the agency must promptly</u>
- 16 report that fact to the Department. If the agency fails to
- 17 <u>make such a report, the Department shall put the agency on</u>
- 18 <u>hold for the placement of other children and initiate</u>
- 19 <u>corrective action that may include revocation of the agency's</u>
- 20 <u>license</u>.
- 21 (f) When a child is missing from a foster home, the
- 22 <u>Department or private agency in charge of case management</u>
- 23 shall report regularly to the foster parent concerning
- 24 <u>efforts to locate the missing child.</u>
- 25 (g) The Department must strive to account for the status
- 26 and whereabouts of every one of its wards who it determines
- 27 <u>is not residing in the authorized placement in which he or</u>
- 28 she was placed.
- 29 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
- 30 becoming law.