



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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MISSING CHILDREN

House Bill 5242

Sponsor: Rep. Michelle McManus

**Committee: Human Services and
Children**

Complete to 1-24-94

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5242 AS INTRODUCED 12-10-93

The bill would amend the act providing for crime and missing person reports, to establish a missing children information clearinghouse within the Department of State Police. The department would administer the clearinghouse as a central repository of information regarding missing children; the information would be collected and disseminated to assist in locating missing children. The department director would have to designate a deputy director to supervise the clearinghouse; the department could contract privately for the administration and operation of the clearinghouse.

The clearinghouse would have to: record each missing child report received under the bill; accept and record a report about a missing child from a parent, guardian, or legal custodian; and exchange information on children suspected of interstate travel with the national crime information center. The clearinghouse also would receive dental records that local law enforcement agencies must under current law seek after someone has been missing for over 30 days. Reports of unidentified bodies of children also would be sent to the clearinghouse.

A law enforcement agency which received a report of a missing child would have to immediately report that information to the clearinghouse, as well as enter the information in the law enforcement information network (the LEIN system) and the national crime information center, as the law now requires. If a child was reported missing by a parent, guardian, or legal custodian, the law enforcement agency receiving the report would immediately inform all on-duty officers of the report, plus notify every other law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over where the child lived or was last seen.

A parent, guardian, or legal custodian would have to immediately report any information he or she had about the location of a child who was reported to the clearinghouse as missing. If the clearinghouse received reliable information that a child had been found, that child's record would be removed from the clearinghouse.

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