



Senate Fiscal Agency  
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Senate Bill 999 (as reported without amendment)  
Sponsor: Senator Jeff Irwin  
Committee: Housing and Human Services

### **CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Child Protection Law to allow the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to release certain information on child abuse or child neglect cases to the media, upon request, if the media could maintain confidentiality of personally identifying information.

MCL 722.627

### **BRIEF RATIONALE**

Generally, information filed under the Law is confidential and may only be released to certain individuals and entities, such as law enforcement and specific individuals involved in a case of suspected child abuse or neglect. According to testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing and Human Services, the DHHS receives many media requests about child abuse or neglect cases and the specific actions or inactions of the DHHS during an investigation of those cases, but the DHHS is prohibited from commenting on or rectifying inaccuracies. Accordingly, it has been suggested that the DHHS be able to release certain information about the DHHS's actions and child abuse or neglect cases to the media to increase public awareness when the DHHS determined necessary.

Legislative Analyst: Eleni Lionas

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the State or local government.

Date Completed: 11-14-24

Fiscal Analyst: Humphrey Akujobi