

**As Reported by the House Community and Family Advancement  
Committee**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**Sub. H. B. No. 126**

**Representatives Boyd, Rezabek**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Seitz, Ramos, Boggs, Ashford, Smith, K., O'Brien,  
Kent, Lepore-Hagan, Craig, Antonio, Miller, Reece, Bocchieri, Sykes, Howse, Ginter,  
LaTourette**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 5101.85, 5101.851, and 5101.853; 1  
to amend, for the purpose of adopting new 2  
section numbers as indicated in parentheses, 3  
sections 5101.852 (5101.856) and 5101.853 4  
(5101.854); and to enact new sections 5101.852 5  
and 5101.853 and section 5101.855 of the Revised 6  
Code to require a region-based kinship care 7  
navigator program. 8

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 5101.85, 5101.851, and 5101.853 9  
be amended; sections 5101.852 (5101.856) and 5101.853 (5101.854) 10  
be amended for the purpose of adopting new section numbers as 11  
indicated in parentheses; and new sections 5101.852 and 5101.853 12  
and section 5101.855 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 13  
follows: 14

**Sec. 5101.85.** As used in sections 5101.851 to ~~5101.853~~ 15  
5101.856 of the Revised Code, "kinship caregiver" means any of 16

the following who is eighteen years of age or older and is 17  
caring for a child in place of the child's parents: 18

(A) The following individuals related by blood or adoption 19  
to the child: 20

(1) Grandparents, including grandparents with the prefix 21  
"great," "great-great," or "great-great-great"; 22

(2) Siblings; 23

(3) Aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces, including such 24  
relatives with the prefix "great," "great-great," "grand," or 25  
"great-grand"; 26

(4) First cousins and first cousins once removed. 27

(B) Stepparents and stepsiblings of the child; 28

(C) Spouses and former spouses of individuals named in 29  
divisions (A) and (B) of this section; 30

(D) A legal guardian of the child; 31

(E) A legal custodian of the child. 32

**Sec. 5101.851.** The department of job and family services 33  
~~may shall~~ establish a statewide ~~program of~~ kinship care 34  
~~navigators~~ navigator program to assist kinship caregivers who 35  
are seeking information regarding, or assistance obtaining, 36  
services and benefits available at the state and local level 37  
that address the needs of those caregivers residing in each 38  
county. The program shall provide to kinship caregivers 39  
information and referral services and assistance obtaining 40  
support services including the following: 41

(A) Publicly funded child care; 42

(B) Respite care; 43

(C) Training related to caring for special needs children; 44

(D) A toll-free telephone number that may be called to 45  
obtain basic information about the rights of, and services 46  
available to, kinship caregivers; 47

(E) Legal services. 48

**Sec. 5101.852.** The director of job and family services 49  
shall divide the state into not less than five and not greater 50  
than twelve regions, for the kinship care navigator program 51  
under section 5101.851 of the Revised Code. The director shall 52  
take the following into consideration when establishing the 53  
regions: 54

(A) The population size; 55

(B) The estimated number of kinship caregivers; 56

(C) The expertise of kinship navigators; 57

(D) Any other factor the director considers relevant. 58

**Sec. 5101.853.** Each kinship care navigator region 59  
established under section 5101.852 of the Revised Code shall 60  
provide information and referral services and assistance in 61  
obtaining support services for kinship caregivers within its 62  
region. 63

**Sec. ~~5101.853~~ 5101.854.** ~~The~~ Not later than one year after 64  
the effective date of this amendment, the department of job and 65  
family services may shall adopt rules to implement the kinship 66  
care ~~navigators~~ navigator program. The rules shall be adopted 67  
under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, except that rules 68  
governing fiscal and administrative matters related to 69  
implementation of the ~~navigators~~ program are internal management 70  
rules and shall be adopted under section 111.15 of the Revised 71

Code. 72

Sec. 5101.855. (A) (1) The kinship care navigator program 73  
shall be funded to the extent that general revenue funds have 74  
been appropriated by the general assembly for that purpose. 75

(2) The director of job and family services shall take any 76  
action necessary to obtain funds available for the kinship care 77  
navigator program under Title IV-E of the "Social Security Act," 78  
94 Stat. 501 (1980), 42 U.S.C. 670, as amended. 79

(B) The department shall pay the full nonfederal share for 80  
the kinship care navigator program. No county department of job 81  
and family services or public children services agency shall be 82  
responsible for the cost of the program. 83

~~Sec. 5101.852~~ 5101.856. Within available funds, the 84  
department of job and family services shall make payments to 85  
public children services agencies for the purpose of permitting 86  
the agencies to provide kinship care navigator information and 87  
referral services and assistance obtaining support services to 88  
kinship caregivers pursuant to the kinship care navigator 89  
program. The department may provide training and technical 90  
assistance concerning the needs of kinship caregivers to 91  
employees of public children services agencies and to persons or 92  
entities that serve kinship caregivers or perform the duties of 93  
a kinship care navigator and are under contract with an agency. 94

**Section 2.** That existing sections 5101.85, 5101.851, 95  
5101.852, and 5101.853 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 96