

HB 137 Make municipal and county peace officers child abuse reporters,

Sponsor: Rep. Kennedy Kent (D)

Purpose and Proposed Changes to Ohio Law in HB 137: Police officers are mandated reporters of suspected child maltreatment in every state except Ohio. This bill brings Ohio in line with other state's laws in an effort to protect children.

Status: Passed the House unanimously Nov. 1, 2017. Assigned to Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, sponsor testimony Jan. 17, 2018. Proponent testimony hearing April 11, 2018. Passed and was signed by the governor into law on December 19, 2018.

HB 139 Eliminate public records exemption if record 75 years old

Sponsors: Rep. Perales (R), Rep. Keller (R)

Purpose: Historical Records provide valuable insight into our collective history as a state, as a society, and as families. Research of these records is requested by historians and genealogists, both professionals and family history practitioners, for a variety of reasons.

The National Genealogical Society recently initiated a Declaration of Rights advocating for access to federal, state, and local government records, indicating that thousands of professional genealogists do research every day on behalf of clients, government agencies, and attorneys.

In 2015 the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation opening confidential records of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services fifty years after the patient's death. In 2008, the Ohio Senate passed legislation opening up Veterans' Discharge Records seventy-five years after the date of the recording.

Proposed Changes to Ohio Law in HB 139

House Bill 139 would eliminate the public records exemption for permanently retained record 75 years after the date of its creation. Records included in this exemption includes:

- Adoptions
- Lunacy Records
- County Home Registers
- Children's Home Registers
- Inheritance Tax Records
- Veterans' Relief Records

Status: Passed House State and Local Government Committee on March 20, 2018. Passed the House on June 20, 2018 and the Senate on December 27, 2018. Was signed by the governor into law on January 7, 2019.