

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 374

Child Dependency/Legal Representation by Senator Lynn

Deletes a requirement that the court appoint an attorney ad litem for a child alleged to have been abused by a parent or caregiver. Provides for court appointment of an attorney to represent a child during a shelter hearing. Provides for a child to be represented by an attorney rather than an attorney ad litem in a hearing involving the child's medical and behavioral status. Adds as a goal for children in shelter or foster care that the child's guardian ad litem and attorney meet with the child. Provides for the court appointment of an attorney during a dependency hearing and for the continuation or discharge of a child's attorney during dependency procedures. Provides for judicial review of the appointment or continuation of appointment. Requires each circuit court to develop a system for providing legal representation for children in the dependency system. (See bill for details)