

## **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 126 Children and Vulnerable Adults/Records by Senator Dockery

Requires that the case file of a child under the supervision of or in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) be maintained in a complete and accurate manner. Requires that the file contain the child's case plan and the full name and street address of all shelters, foster parents, group homes, treatment facilities, or locations where the child is placed.

Provides that all records in the child's case file must be available for inspection and that a copy of the records be provided upon request at no cost to the child, the child's caregiver, guardian ad litem, or attorney under specified circumstances.

Authorizes the court to approve the release of confidential information if necessary to ensure access to appropriate services or for the safety of the child. Provides that entities that have access to confidential information concerning a child may share it with other entities that provide services benefiting children.

Limits the public records exemption provided for reports relating to child abandonment, abuse, or neglect, or relating to adult abuse, neglect or exploitation to personally identifying information in the reports. Revises the list of persons or entities that have access to such information. Authorizes the Secretary of the DCFS to release certain records in the public domain. (See bill for details)