A B I L L

To amend sections 5101.85, 5101.851, and 5101.853; to amend, for the purpose of adopting a new section number as indicated in parentheses, section 5101.853 (5101.855); and to enact new section 5101.853 and sections 5101.854 and 5101.856 of the Revised Code to require a region-based kinship care navigator program and to make an appropriation.

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

Section 1. That sections 5101.85, 5101.851, and 5101.853 be amended; section 5101.853 (5101.855) be amended for the purpose of adopting a new section number as indicated in parentheses; and new section 5101.853 and sections 5101.854 and 5101.856 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 5101.85. As used in sections 5101.851 to 5101.856 of the Revised Code, "kinship caregiver" means any of the following who is eighteen years of age or older and is caring for a child in place of the child's parents:

(A) The following individuals related by blood or adoption to the child:
(1) Grandparents, including grandparents with the prefix "great," "great-great," or "great-great-great";

(2) Siblings;

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

(4) First cousins and first cousins once removed.

(B) Stepparents and stepsiblings of the child;

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

(D) A legal guardian of the child;

(E) A legal custodian of the child;

(F) Any nonrelative adult the child identifies as having a familiar and long-standing relationship or bond with the child or the family, which relationship or bond will ensure the child's social ties.

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

(A) Publicly funded child care;

(B) Respite care;
(C) Training related to caring for special needs children;

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

(E) Legal services.

**Sec. 5101.853.** The director of job and family services shall divide the state into not less than five and not greater than twelve regions, for the kinship care navigator program under section 5101.851 of the Revised Code. The director shall take the following into consideration when establishing the regions:

(A) The population size;

(B) The estimated number of kinship caregivers;

(C) The expertise of kinship navigators;

(D) Any other factor the director considers relevant.

**Sec. 5101.854.** The program in each kinship care navigator region established under section 5101.853 of the Revised Code shall provide information and referral services and assistance in obtaining support services for kinship caregivers within its region.

**Sec. 5101.855.** The Not later than one year after the effective date of this amendment, the department of job and family services may shall adopt rules to implement the kinship care navigator program. The rules shall be adopted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, except that rules governing fiscal and administrative matters related to implementation of the navigators program are internal management rules and shall be adopted under section 111.15 of the Revised Code.
Sec. 5101.856. (A) (1) The kinship care navigator program shall be funded to the extent that general revenue funds have been appropriated by the general assembly for that purpose.


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

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

Section 3. All items in this section are hereby appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 2020 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2021. The appropriations made in this act are in addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2020-FY 2021 biennium.

JFS DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

General Revenue Fund

GRF 600523 Family and Children Services $5,000,000 $5,000,000

TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund $5,000,000 $5,000,000

TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS $5,000,000 $5,000,000
The foregoing appropriation item 600523, Family and Children Services, shall be used to support the Kinship Care Navigator Program. All appropriated amounts may be used to match eligible federal Title IV-E funds.

Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for as though made in the main operating appropriations act of the 133rd General Assembly.

The appropriations made in this act are subject to all provisions of the main operating appropriations act of the 133rd General Assembly that are generally applicable to such appropriations.