

As Passed by the House

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session

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H. B. No. 309

Representatives Gonzales, Rezabek

Cosponsors: Representatives Hambley, Goodman, Retherford, Boggs, Thompson, Miller, Dean, Kent, Brenner, Sheehy, Young, Anielski, Antonio, Arndt, Boyd, Brown, Clyde, Craig, Dever, Edwards, Gavarone, Ginter, Greenspan, Hagan, Hill, Holmes, Howse, Hughes, Johnson, Kick, Lanese, Lang, LaTourette, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, McClain, O'Brien, Patmon, Patterson, Patton, Pelanda, Riedel, Rogers, Romanchuk, Schaffer, Slaby, Sprague, Stein, Strahorn, Sweeney, Sykes, West, Wiggam

A BILL

To enact sections 2131.03, 2131.031, 2131.032,
2131.033, and 2131.034 of the Revised Code to
generally prohibit a person's blindness from
being used to deny or limit custody, parenting
time, visitation, adoption, or service as a
guardian or foster caregiver, regarding a minor.

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

Section 1. That sections 2131.03, 2131.031, 2131.032,
2131.033, and 2131.034 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as
follows:

Sec. 2131.03. As used in sections 2131.03 to 2131.034 of
the Revised Code, "blind" has the same meaning as in section
3304.28 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 2131.031. (A) Except when necessary to serve the best
interests of a minor, no court, public children services agency,

private child placing agency, or private noncustodial agency 15
shall deny or limit a person from any of the following because 16
the person is blind: 17

(1) Exercising custody, parenting time, or visitation 18
rights with a minor; 19

(2) Adopting a minor; 20

(3) Serving as a foster caregiver for a minor; 21

(4) Appointment as a guardian for a minor. 22

(B) A determination of detrimental impact under section 23
2131.032 of the Revised Code may be considered when determining 24
the best interests of the minor, with respect to the 25
requirements of this section. 26

Sec. 2131.032. (A) A court may determine that a person's 27
blindness has or could have a detrimental impact on a minor if a 28
party demonstrates, by clear and convincing evidence, that a 29
blindness-connected behavior endangers the health, safety, or 30
welfare of the minor. The burden of proof is on the party 31
asserting the detrimental impact. 32

(B) Before making a determination under division (A) of 33
this section, the court shall permit the blind person to 34
demonstrate how supportive services could alleviate any 35
detrimental impact on the minor. 36

Sec. 2131.033. When making a determination under section 37
2131.032 of the Revised Code, a court may order that supportive 38
services that alleviate possible detrimental impact be 39
implemented, with an opportunity to review the need for 40
continuation of such services, after a reasonable amount of 41
time. 42

Sec. 2131.034. If a court determines that the exercise of 43
custody, parenting time, or visitation rights, adoption, service 44
as a foster caregiver, or appointment as a guardian, regarding a 45
minor should be denied or limited in any manner, it shall make 46
specific written findings of fact and conclusions of law 47
providing the basis for such determination and why supportive 48
services are insufficient to alleviate any detrimental impact 49
determined under section 2131.032 of the Revised Code. 50