

State lawmakers taking up proposed changes to Michigan's foster care program

By [STEVE CARMODY](#) · 19 HOURS AGO

[SHARE](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Google+](#) [Email](#)

[A state House committee](#) will consider legislation to help foster kids navigate the system.

Among other things, the bills would require a “children’s assurance of quality foster care policy is developed” and that current and former foster children participate in developing the policy.

The bills would also require foster kids be able to meet with judges overseeing their cases and know how to file complaints.

Advocates for Michigan children in foster care say these changes are responding to a serious need to give children and families greater involvement.

“We’re looking to continue this conversation,” says Matt Gillard, with the group [Michigan’s Children](#), “Continue to engage and involve the kids and families that are affected by this system.”

Gillard says the three-bill package is a “first step” in the process.



(file photo)

CREDIT STEVE CARMODY / MICHIGAN RADIO

The state House Families, Children and Seniors committee meets at 9 am, Wednesday in Lansing.