

# SB2177



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2177

Introduced 2/7/2025, by Sen. Li Arellano, Jr.

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

750 ILCS 50/1

Amends the Adoption Act. Defines an "unfit person" to mean a person in which there is substance abuse or addiction or both to alcohol or illegal drugs. Provides that if the evidence indicates a parent's past or current abuse or addiction, the court must review the parent's history of such and make a finding that it no longer is a threat to the health and welfare of a child.

LRB104 10758 JRC 20837 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning civil law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Adoption Act is amended by changing Section  
5 1 as follows:

6 (750 ILCS 50/1)

7 Sec. 1. Definitions. When used in this Act, unless the  
8 context otherwise requires:

9 A. ~~(1)~~ "Child" means a person under legal age subject to  
10 adoption under this Act.

11 A-5. ~~(2)~~ "Adult", when referring to a person who is the  
12 subject of a petition for adoption under Section 3 of this Act,  
13 means a person who is 18 years old or older.

14 B. "Related child" means a child subject to adoption where  
15 either or both of the adopting parents stands in any of the  
16 following relationships to the child by blood, marriage,  
17 adoption, or civil union: parent, grand-parent,  
18 great-grandparent, brother, sister, step-parent,  
19 step-grandparent, step-brother, step-sister, uncle, aunt,  
20 great-uncle, great-aunt, first cousin, or second cousin. A  
21 person is related to the child as a first cousin or second  
22 cousin if they are both related to the same ancestor as either  
23 grandchild or great-grandchild. A child whose parent has

1 executed a consent to adoption, a surrender, or a waiver  
2 pursuant to Section 10 of this Act or whose parent has signed a  
3 denial of paternity pursuant to Section 12 of the Vital  
4 Records Act or Section 12a of this Act, or whose parent has had  
5 his or her parental rights terminated, is not a related child  
6 to that person, unless (1) the consent is determined to be void  
7 or is void pursuant to subsection O of Section 10 of this Act;  
8 or (2) the parent of the child executed a consent to adoption  
9 by a specified person or persons pursuant to subsection A-1 of  
10 Section 10 of this Act and a court of competent jurisdiction  
11 finds that such consent is void; or (3) the order terminating  
12 the parental rights of the parent is vacated by a court of  
13 competent jurisdiction.

14 C. "Agency" for the purpose of this Act means a public  
15 child welfare agency or a licensed child welfare agency.

16 D. "Unfit person" means any person whom the court shall  
17 find to be unfit to have a child, without regard to the  
18 likelihood that the child will be placed for adoption. The  
19 grounds of unfitness are any one or more of the following,  
20 except that a person shall not be considered an unfit person  
21 for the sole reason that the person has relinquished a child in  
22 accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act:

23 (a) Abandonment of the child.

24 (a-1) Abandonment of a newborn infant in a hospital.

25 (a-2) Abandonment of a newborn infant in any setting  
26 where the evidence suggests that the parent intended to

1           relinquish his or her parental rights.

2           (b) Failure to maintain a reasonable degree of  
3 interest, concern, or responsibility as to the child's  
4 welfare.

5           (c) Desertion of the child for more than 3 months next  
6 preceding the commencement of the Adoption proceeding.

7           (d) Substantial neglect of the child if continuous or  
8 repeated.

9           (d-1) Substantial neglect, if continuous or repeated,  
10 of any child residing in the household which resulted in  
11 the death of that child.

12           (e) Extreme or repeated cruelty to the child.

13           (f) There is a rebuttable presumption, which can be  
14 overcome only by clear and convincing evidence, that a  
15 parent is unfit if:

16           (1) Two or more findings of physical abuse have  
17 been entered regarding any children under Section 2-21  
18 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, the most recent of  
19 which was determined by the juvenile court hearing the  
20 matter to be supported by clear and convincing  
21 evidence; or

22           (2) The parent has been convicted or found not  
23 guilty by reason of insanity and the conviction or  
24 finding resulted from the death of any child by  
25 physical abuse; or

26           (3) There is a finding of physical child abuse

1 resulting from the death of any child under Section  
2 2-21 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

3 No conviction or finding of delinquency pursuant to  
4 Article V of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 shall be  
5 considered a criminal conviction for the purpose of  
6 applying any presumption under this paragraph ~~item~~ (f).

7 (g) Failure to protect the child from conditions  
8 within his environment injurious to the child's welfare.

9 (h) Other neglect of, or misconduct toward the child;  
10 provided that in making a finding of unfitness the court  
11 hearing the adoption proceeding shall not be bound by any  
12 previous finding, order or judgment affecting or  
13 determining the rights of the parents toward the child  
14 sought to be adopted in any other proceeding except such  
15 proceedings terminating parental rights as shall be had  
16 under either this Act, the Juvenile Court Act, or the  
17 Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

18 (i) Depravity. Conviction of any one of the following  
19 crimes shall create a presumption that a parent is  
20 depraved which can be overcome only by clear and  
21 convincing evidence: (1) first degree murder in violation  
22 of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of Section 9-1 of  
23 the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012 or  
24 conviction of second degree murder in violation of  
25 subsection (a) of Section 9-2 of the Criminal Code of 1961  
26 or the Criminal Code of 2012 of a parent of the child to be

1           adopted; (2) first degree murder or second degree murder  
2           of any child in violation of the Criminal Code of 1961 or  
3           the Criminal Code of 2012; (3) attempt or conspiracy to  
4           commit first degree murder or second degree murder of any  
5           child in violation of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the  
6           Criminal Code of 2012; (4) solicitation to commit murder  
7           of any child, solicitation to commit murder of any child  
8           for hire, or solicitation to commit second degree murder  
9           of any child in violation of the Criminal Code of 1961 or  
10          the Criminal Code of 2012; (5) predatory criminal sexual  
11          assault of a child in violation of Section 11-1.40 or  
12          12-14.1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code  
13          of 2012; (6) heinous battery of any child in violation of  
14          the Criminal Code of 1961; (7) aggravated battery of any  
15          child in violation of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the  
16          Criminal Code of 2012; (8) any violation of Section  
17          11-1.20 or Section 12-13 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or  
18          the Criminal Code of 2012; (9) any violation of subsection  
19          (a) of Section 11-1.50 or Section 12-16 of the Criminal  
20          Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012; (10) any  
21          violation of Section 11-9.1 of the Criminal Code of 1961  
22          or the Criminal Code of 2012; (11) any violation of  
23          Section 11-9.1A of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the  
24          Criminal Code of 2012; or (12) an offense in any other  
25          state the elements of which are similar and bear a  
26          substantial relationship to any of the enumerated offenses

1 in this paragraph ~~subsection~~ (i).

2 There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent is  
3 deprived if the parent has been criminally convicted of at  
4 least 3 felonies under the laws of this State or any other  
5 state, or under federal law, or the criminal laws of any  
6 United States territory; and at least one of these  
7 convictions took place within 5 years of the filing of the  
8 petition or motion seeking termination of parental rights.

9 There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent is  
10 deprived if that parent has been criminally convicted of  
11 either first or second degree murder of any person as  
12 defined in the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code  
13 of 2012 within 10 years of the filing date of the petition  
14 or motion to terminate parental rights.

15 No conviction or finding of delinquency pursuant to  
16 Article 5 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 shall be  
17 considered a criminal conviction for the purpose of  
18 applying any presumption under this paragraph ~~item~~ (i).

19 (j) Open and notorious adultery or fornication.

20 (j-1) (Blank).

21 (k) Substance abuse or addiction or both to alcohol or  
22 illegal drugs. If the evidence indicates a parent's past  
23 or current abuse or addiction, the court must review the  
24 parent's history of such and make a finding that it no  
25 longer is a threat to the health and welfare of a child.  
26 ~~Habitual drunkenness or addiction to drugs, other than~~

1 ~~those prescribed by a physician, for at least one year~~  
2 ~~immediately prior to the commencement of the unfitness~~  
3 ~~proceeding.~~

4 (l) Failure to demonstrate a reasonable degree of  
5 interest, concern, or responsibility as to the welfare of  
6 a new born child during the first 30 days after its birth.

7 (m) Failure by a parent (i) to make reasonable efforts  
8 to correct the conditions that were the basis for the  
9 removal of the child from the parent during any 9-month  
10 period following the adjudication of neglected or abused  
11 minor under Section 2-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987  
12 or dependent minor under Section 2-4 of that Act, or (ii)  
13 to make reasonable progress toward the return of the child  
14 to the parent during any 9-month period following the  
15 adjudication of neglected or abused minor under Section  
16 2-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 or dependent minor  
17 under Section 2-4 of that Act. If a service plan has been  
18 established as required under Section 8.2 of the Abused  
19 and Neglected Child Reporting Act to correct the  
20 conditions that were the basis for the removal of the  
21 child from the parent and if those services were  
22 available, then, for purposes of this Act, "failure to  
23 make reasonable progress toward the return of the child to  
24 the parent" includes the parent's failure to substantially  
25 fulfill his or her obligations under the service plan and  
26 correct the conditions that brought the child into care

1 during any 9-month period following the adjudication under  
2 Section 2-3 or 2-4 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.  
3 Notwithstanding any other provision, when a petition or  
4 motion seeks to terminate parental rights on the basis of  
5 subparagraph ~~item~~ (ii) of this paragraph ~~subsection~~ (m),  
6 the petitioner shall file with the court and serve on the  
7 parties a pleading that specifies the 9-month period or  
8 periods relied on. The pleading shall be filed and served  
9 on the parties no later than 3 weeks before the date set by  
10 the court for closure of discovery, and the allegations in  
11 the pleading shall be treated as incorporated into the  
12 petition or motion. Failure of a respondent to file a  
13 written denial of the allegations in the pleading shall  
14 not be treated as an admission that the allegations are  
15 true.

16 (m-1) (Blank).

17 (n) Evidence of intent to forgo his or her parental  
18 rights, whether or not the child is a ward of the court,  
19 (1) as manifested by his or her failure for a period of 12  
20 months: (i) to visit the child, (ii) to communicate with  
21 the child or agency, although able to do so and not  
22 prevented from doing so by an agency or by court order, or  
23 (iii) to maintain contact with or plan for the future of  
24 the child, although physically able to do so, or (2) as  
25 manifested by the father's failure, where he and the  
26 mother of the child were unmarried to each other at the

1 time of the child's birth, (i) to commence legal  
2 proceedings to establish his paternity under the Illinois  
3 Parentage Act of 1984, the Illinois Parentage Act of 2015,  
4 or the law of the jurisdiction of the child's birth within  
5 30 days of being informed, pursuant to Section 12a of this  
6 Act, that he is the father or the likely father of the  
7 child or, after being so informed where the child is not  
8 yet born, within 30 days of the child's birth, or (ii) to  
9 make a good faith effort to pay a reasonable amount of the  
10 expenses related to the birth of the child and to provide a  
11 reasonable amount for the financial support of the child,  
12 the court to consider in its determination all relevant  
13 circumstances, including the financial condition of both  
14 parents; provided that the ground for termination provided  
15 in this item (ii) of subparagraph (2) of this paragraph  
16 (n) ~~subparagraph (n) (2) (ii)~~ shall only be available where  
17 the petition is brought by the mother or the husband of the  
18 mother.

19 Contact or communication by a parent with his or her  
20 child that does not demonstrate affection and concern does  
21 not constitute reasonable contact and planning under this  
22 paragraph ~~subdivision~~ (n). In the absence of evidence to  
23 the contrary, the ability to visit, communicate, maintain  
24 contact, pay expenses, and plan for the future shall be  
25 presumed. The subjective intent of the parent, whether  
26 expressed or otherwise, unsupported by evidence of the

1       foregoing parental acts manifesting that intent, shall not  
2       preclude a determination that the parent has intended to  
3       forgo his or her parental rights. In making this  
4       determination, the court may consider but shall not  
5       require a showing of diligent efforts by an authorized  
6       agency to encourage the parent to perform the acts  
7       specified in this paragraph ~~subdivision~~ (n).

8       It shall be an affirmative defense to any allegation  
9       under subparagraph ~~paragraph~~ (2) of this paragraph (n)  
10      ~~subsection~~ that the father's failure was due to  
11      circumstances beyond his control or to impediments created  
12      by the mother or any other person having legal custody.  
13      Proof of that fact need only be by a preponderance of the  
14      evidence.

15      (o) Repeated or continuous failure by the parents,  
16      although physically and financially able, to provide the  
17      child with adequate food, clothing, or shelter.

18      (p) Inability to discharge parental responsibilities  
19      supported by competent evidence from a psychiatrist,  
20      licensed clinical social worker, or clinical psychologist  
21      of mental impairment, mental illness, or an intellectual  
22      disability as defined in Section 1-116 of the Mental  
23      Health and Developmental Disabilities Code, or  
24      developmental disability as defined in Section 1-106 of  
25      that Code, and there is sufficient justification to  
26      believe that the inability to discharge parental

1 responsibilities shall extend beyond a reasonable time  
2 period. However, this paragraph ~~subdivision~~ (p) shall not  
3 be construed so as to permit a licensed clinical social  
4 worker to conduct any medical diagnosis to determine  
5 mental illness or mental impairment.

6 (q) (Blank).

7 (r) The child is in the temporary custody or  
8 guardianship of the Department of Children and Family  
9 Services, the parent is incarcerated as a result of  
10 criminal conviction at the time the petition or motion for  
11 termination of parental rights is filed, prior to  
12 incarceration the parent had little or no contact with the  
13 child or provided little or no support for the child, and  
14 the parent's incarceration will prevent the parent from  
15 discharging his or her parental responsibilities for the  
16 child for a period in excess of 2 years after the filing of  
17 the petition or motion for termination of parental rights.

18 (s) The child is in the temporary custody or  
19 guardianship of the Department of Children and Family  
20 Services, the parent is incarcerated at the time the  
21 petition or motion for termination of parental rights is  
22 filed, the parent has been repeatedly incarcerated as a  
23 result of criminal convictions, and the parent's repeated  
24 incarceration has prevented the parent from discharging  
25 his or her parental responsibilities for the child.

26 (t) (Blank).

1           E. "Parent" means a person who is the legal mother or legal  
2 father of the child as defined in subsection X or Y of this  
3 Section. For the purpose of this Act, a parent who has executed  
4 a consent to adoption, a surrender, or a waiver pursuant to  
5 Section 10 of this Act, who has signed a Denial of Paternity  
6 pursuant to Section 12 of the Vital Records Act or Section 12a  
7 of this Act, or whose parental rights have been terminated by a  
8 court, is not a parent of the child who was the subject of the  
9 consent, surrender, waiver, or denial unless (1) the consent  
10 is void pursuant to subsection O of Section 10 of this Act; or  
11 (2) the person executed a consent to adoption by a specified  
12 person or persons pursuant to subsection A-1 of Section 10 of  
13 this Act and a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the  
14 consent is void; or (3) the order terminating the parental  
15 rights of the person is vacated by a court of competent  
16 jurisdiction.

17           F. A person is available for adoption when the person is:

18           (a) a child who has been surrendered for adoption to  
19 an agency and to whose adoption the agency has thereafter  
20 consented;

21           (b) a child to whose adoption a person authorized by  
22 law, other than his parents, has consented, or to whose  
23 adoption no consent is required pursuant to Section 8 of  
24 this Act;

25           (c) a child who is in the custody of persons who intend  
26 to adopt him through placement made by his parents;

1 (c-1) a child for whom a parent has signed a specific  
2 consent pursuant to subsection O of Section 10;

3 (d) an adult who meets the conditions set forth in  
4 Section 3 of this Act; or

5 (e) a child who has been relinquished as defined in  
6 Section 10 of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act.

7 A person who would otherwise be available for adoption  
8 shall not be deemed unavailable for adoption solely by reason  
9 of his or her death.

10 G. The singular includes the plural and the plural  
11 includes the singular and the "male" includes the "female", as  
12 the context of this Act may require.

13 H. (Blank).

14 I. "Habitual residence" has the meaning ascribed to it in  
15 the federal Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 and regulations  
16 promulgated thereunder.

17 J. "Immediate relatives" means the biological parents, the  
18 parents of the biological parents, and the siblings of the  
19 biological parents.

20 K. "Intercountry adoption" is a process by which a child  
21 from a country other than the United States is adopted by  
22 persons who are habitual residents of the United States, or  
23 the child is a habitual resident of the United States who is  
24 adopted by persons who are habitual residents of a country  
25 other than the United States.

26 L. (Blank).

1 M. "Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children" is a  
2 law enacted by all states and certain territories for the  
3 purpose of establishing uniform procedures for handling the  
4 interstate placement of children in foster homes, adoptive  
5 homes, or other child care facilities.

6 N. (Blank).

7 O. "Preadoption requirements" means any conditions or  
8 standards established by the laws or administrative rules of  
9 this State that must be met by a prospective adoptive parent  
10 prior to the placement of a child in an adoptive home.

11 P. "Abused child" means a child whose parent or immediate  
12 family member, or any person responsible for the child's  
13 welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the  
14 child, or a paramour of the child's parent:

15 (a) inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be  
16 inflicted upon the child physical injury, by other than  
17 accidental means, that causes death, disfigurement,  
18 impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or  
19 impairment of any bodily function;

20 (b) creates a substantial risk of physical injury to  
21 the child by other than accidental means which would be  
22 likely to cause death, disfigurement, impairment of  
23 physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any  
24 bodily function;

25 (c) commits or allows to be committed any sex offense  
26 against the child, as sex offenses are defined in the

1 Criminal Code of 2012 and extending those definitions of  
2 sex offenses to include children under 18 years of age;

3 (d) commits or allows to be committed an act or acts of  
4 torture upon the child; or

5 (e) inflicts excessive corporal punishment.

6 Q. "Neglected child" means any child whose parent or other  
7 person responsible for the child's welfare withholds or denies  
8 nourishment or medically indicated treatment including food or  
9 care denied solely on the basis of the present or anticipated  
10 mental or physical impairment as determined by a physician  
11 acting alone or in consultation with other physicians or  
12 otherwise does not provide the proper or necessary support,  
13 education as required by law, or medical or other remedial  
14 care recognized under State law as necessary for a child's  
15 well-being, or other care necessary for his or her well-being,  
16 including adequate food, clothing, and shelter; or who is  
17 abandoned by his or her parents or other person responsible  
18 for the child's welfare.

19 A child shall not be considered neglected or abused for  
20 the sole reason that the child's parent or other person  
21 responsible for his or her welfare depends upon spiritual  
22 means through prayer alone for the treatment or cure of  
23 disease or remedial care as provided under Section 4 of the  
24 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. A child shall not be  
25 considered neglected or abused for the sole reason that the  
26 child's parent or other person responsible for the child's

1 welfare failed to vaccinate, delayed vaccination, or refused  
2 vaccination for the child due to a waiver on religious or  
3 medical grounds as permitted by law.

4 R. "Putative father" means a man who may be a child's  
5 father, but who (1) is not married to the child's mother on or  
6 before the date that the child was or is to be born and (2) has  
7 not established paternity of the child in a court proceeding  
8 before the filing of a petition for the adoption of the child.  
9 The term includes a male who is less than 18 years of age.  
10 "Putative father" does not mean a man who is the child's father  
11 as a result of criminal sexual abuse or assault as defined  
12 under Article 11 of the Criminal Code of 2012.

13 S. "Standby adoption" means an adoption in which a parent  
14 consents to custody and termination of parental rights to  
15 become effective upon the occurrence of a future event, which  
16 is either the death of the parent or the request of the parent  
17 for the entry of a final judgment of adoption.

18 T. (Blank).

19 T-5. "Biological parent", "birth parent", or "natural  
20 parent" of a child are interchangeable terms that mean a  
21 person who is biologically or genetically related to that  
22 child as a parent.

23 U. "Interstate adoption" means the placement of a minor  
24 child with a prospective adoptive parent for the purpose of  
25 pursuing an adoption for that child that is subject to the  
26 provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of

1 Children.

2 V. (Blank).

3 W. (Blank).

4 X. "Legal father" of a child means a man who is recognized  
5 as or presumed to be that child's father:

6 (1) because of his marriage to or civil union with the  
7 child's parent at the time of the child's birth or within  
8 300 days prior to that child's birth, unless he signed a  
9 denial of paternity pursuant to Section 12 of the Vital  
10 Records Act or a waiver pursuant to Section 10 of this Act;  
11 or

12 (2) because his paternity of the child has been  
13 established pursuant to the Illinois Parentage Act, the  
14 Illinois Parentage Act of 1984, or the Gestational  
15 Surrogacy Act; or

16 (3) because he is listed as the child's father or  
17 parent on the child's birth certificate, unless he is  
18 otherwise determined by an administrative or judicial  
19 proceeding not to be the parent of the child or unless he  
20 rescinds his acknowledgment of paternity pursuant to the  
21 Illinois Parentage Act of 1984; or

22 (4) because his paternity or adoption of the child has  
23 been established by a court of competent jurisdiction.

24 The definition in this subsection X shall not be construed  
25 to provide greater or lesser rights as to the number of parents  
26 who can be named on a final judgment order of adoption or

1 Illinois birth certificate that otherwise exist under Illinois  
2 law.

3 Y. "Legal mother" of a child means a woman who is  
4 recognized as or presumed to be that child's mother:

5 (1) because she gave birth to the child except as  
6 provided in the Gestational Surrogacy Act; or

7 (2) because her maternity of the child has been  
8 established pursuant to the Illinois Parentage Act of 1984  
9 or the Gestational Surrogacy Act; or

10 (3) because her maternity or adoption of the child has  
11 been established by a court of competent jurisdiction; or

12 (4) because of her marriage to or civil union with the  
13 child's other parent at the time of the child's birth or  
14 within 300 days prior to the time of birth; or

15 (5) because she is listed as the child's mother or  
16 parent on the child's birth certificate unless she is  
17 otherwise determined by an administrative or judicial  
18 proceeding not to be the parent of the child.

19 The definition in this subsection Y shall not be construed  
20 to provide greater or lesser rights as to the number of parents  
21 who can be named on a final judgment order of adoption or  
22 Illinois birth certificate that otherwise exist under Illinois  
23 law.

24 Z. "Department" means the Illinois Department of Children  
25 and Family Services.

26 AA. "Placement disruption" means a circumstance where the

1 child is removed from an adoptive placement before the  
2 adoption is finalized.

3 BB. "Secondary placement" means a placement, including,  
4 but not limited to,  
5 the placement of a youth in care as defined  
6 in Section 4d of the Children and Family Services Act, that  
7 occurs after a placement disruption or an adoption  
8 dissolution. "Secondary placement" does not mean secondary  
9 placements arising due to the death of the adoptive parent of  
10 the child.

11 CC. "Adoption dissolution" means a circumstance where the  
12 child is removed from an adoptive placement after the adoption  
13 is finalized.

14 DD. "Unregulated placement" means the secondary placement  
15 of a child that occurs without the oversight of the courts, the  
16 Department, or a licensed child welfare agency.

17 EE. "Post-placement and post-adoption support services"  
18 means support services for placed or adopted children and  
19 families that include, but are not limited to, mental health  
20 treatment, including counseling and other support services for  
21 emotional, behavioral, or developmental needs, and treatment  
22 for substance abuse.

23 FF. "Youth in care" has the meaning provided in Section 4d  
24 of the Children and Family Services Act.

25 The changes made by Public Act 103-941 ~~this amendatory Act~~  
26 ~~of the 103rd General Assembly~~ apply to a petition that is filed  
on or after January 1, 2025.

1 (Source: P.A. 102-139, eff. 1-1-22; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21;  
2 103-696, eff. 1-1-25; 103-941, eff. 1-1-25; revised 11-26-24.)