

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	George G., Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Grants the Department of Human Services (DHS) authority to use abuse and neglect reports in providing protective services and for screening employees, providers and volunteers. Requires DHS to adopt rules to carry out authority to use abuse and neglect reports, including rules that provide notice and opportunity for due process and hearings. Limits use of abuse and neglect reports for disclosure other than for purposes outlined in the measure. Directs DHS to convene a committee consisting of DHS employees and providers to develop recommendations for screening DHS employees and persons who are licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise regulated by DHS to provide care. Proposes that DHS submit implementation plan to the 75th Legislative Assembly. Repeals Act July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Challenges and complexities of developing system to coordinate screening efforts between all programs providing protective services
- Only substantiated cases will be considered in screening process
- Measure would allow DHS to share information with providers to help them make employment decisions
- Processes other states use for determining the fitness of employees working with vulnerable populations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND The Department of Human Services (DHS) is currently able to use child protective services reports to screen certain providers working with children, but is not able to use information regarding abuse against adults or people with disabilities during screening processes or use any abuse information to screen employees, volunteers, or providers working with adults. HB 2175 A would give DHS the authority to use abuse and neglect reports for the purpose of providing protective services and screening active and potential DHS employees and active and potential volunteers and providers acting on behalf of DHS. The bill also directs DHS to work with providers to develop detailed rules to carry out a comprehensive screening program.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.