

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Whitsett, Prozanski
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Anna Braun, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 5/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the court to make written findings why placement of a child with a relative is not in the best interest of a child.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current practice of courts

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: When children are removed from the care of parents, the primary policy directive of the Department of Human Services is family reconciliation. If it is determined that reconciliation is not an option, the preferred placement for children is with other family members or established caregivers. Enacting HB 2897A would ensure that if children were placed with other than available family members or established caregivers, the court would make a written finding regarding why the placement did not occur.