

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Frederick, Greenlick, Parrish, Thompson, Weidner, Gilliam, Tomei
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Harker
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/16, 5/25

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires members of legislative sensitive review committee to develop findings and conclusions and make recommendations to Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) regarding policies and practices. Requires disclosure of report upon request by any member of the Legislative Assembly, unless otherwise exempted from disclosure. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Role and processes of sensitive review committee
- Confidentiality of reports reviewed by sensitive review committee
- Applicability of public records law disclosures of report results

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Located within DHS, Child Protective Services is the public agency mandated to protect children from abuse and neglect within their own families or foster care homes. In federal fiscal year 2010, DHS received 71,886 reports of abuse and neglect. Of those received reports, 29,021 reports were referred for investigation and 7,306 referrals were founded for abuse or neglect, involving 11, 188 victims. DHS currently has the authority to convene a sensitive review committee for the purpose of reviewing the actions and conduct of the department regarding the integrity of the child welfare system.