

SB 741

Relating to placement of children

SB 741 directs the Department of Human Services to give relatives and current caretakers equal status when considering them as prospective adoptive parents. In considering suitability for adoption, the agency must also give a child's relatives and current caretakers a greater weight as compared to other potential adoptive parents falling outside of those categories.

The bill also modifies some court activities regarding placement of a child ward, along with some reporting requirements and timelines.

The bill's fiscal impact is indeterminate, and will be driven by its changes potentially triggering additional court hearings and judicial reviews. Affected agencies will monitor the workload created by the bill and seek additional resources if that workload proves to be unmanageable.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 741 be reported out do pass.