

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/16/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference  
(Printed A-Eng).**Meeting Dates:** 03/12, 04/16**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

**Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to administer pilot program to improve outcomes for those in its custody or foster care. Requires program in one rural and one urban area. Requires specific services be provided. Requires advisory groups include members with specific experiences. Mandates evaluation and report to legislature by May 1, 2017. Appropriates one million General Fund dollars for implementation. Sunsets June 30, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Pending amendment to focus on services that support healing foster homes
- Integrating treatment with foster care
- “Trauma-informed” training
- Improving placement stability and success of foster relationships

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Replaces general requirement for appropriate training and support with enumerated list of several specific, required services. Requires advisory groups include members with specific experiences. Changes report due date to May 1, 2017, and changes sunset to June 30, 2017.

**BACKGROUND:**

Senate Bill 632-A was introduced in response to concerns expressed by foster parents and youth, based on their experience of the foster care system. It appropriates one million dollars for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement a pilot program that seeks to improve outcomes for those in its custody or in foster care, in both rural and urban regions, with an evaluation and report back to the legislature by May 1, 2017.