
MEMORANDUM

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To: Human Services Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office
503-986-1833

Date: February 24, 2016

Subject: SB 1515 - Relating to child welfare
Work Session Recommendation

In general, Senate Bill 1515 creates the statutory authority to bring regulatory action to the licenses of child-caring agencies (CCAs). It expands the definition of child to include 18 to 20 year olds. What constitutes a CCA is clarified and the bill lays out criteria that programs must meet to be licensed by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The legislation increases the accountability of the department to investigate a wide range of concerns about child caring agencies and hold the agencies accountable for the safety, health, and wellbeing of children in their programs.

The bill creates a new definition of abuse for a child in care and lays certain instances that may be grounds for official misconduct, such as DHS failing to investigate and hold CCAs accountable. The bill requires the department to report back quarterly on substantiated findings, as well as provide reports on the cost and feasibility of national accreditation, and on cost, feasibility and design of a Center of Continuous Improvement for CCAs.

In addition to interim committee work, the measure had a hearing in the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood on February 3, 2016.

For the 2015-17 biennium, the bill has a fiscal impact of about \$369,031 General Fund (\$897,272 total funds) and 4 positions (2.00 FTE); the recommended amendment adds expenditure authority to the bill. Since the program begins mid-biennium, costs for 2017-19 will be higher.

Amendment

The -A8 amendment adds General Fund and Other Funds/Federal Fund expenditure limitation to the budgets for DHS and the Department of Justice.

Motion: I move the -A8 amendment to SB 1515.

Measure as Modified

The measure, as amended, is recommended to be moved to the Full Committee on Joint Ways and Means.

Motion: I move SB 1515 to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means with a “do pass” recommendation, as amended.

Assignment of Carriers

Full: _____

1st Chamber: _____

2nd Chamber: _____