

SB 820 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct statewide study regarding screening and assessment of child abuse by July 1, 2018. Requires DHS to submit report on the study to the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2018. Sunsets January 1, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

When DHS receives a child abuse allegation, the report is screened by staff to determine and prioritize the next steps. Screened reports that are determined to be possible child abuse then go into an assessment process. An assessment involves a DHS interview with the subject child and other relevant persons, and after review, DHS determines the credibility of the report and can take action to ensure the safety of the child.

Senate Bill 820 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct a statewide study regarding the department's screening and assessment procedures for reports of child abuse. The measure requires DHS to complete the study no later than July 1, 2018 and report back to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly relating to child welfare by November 1, 2018.