

**HB 2344 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Human Services**

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**Prepared By:** Matt Doumit, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/19

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Modifies qualifications for minors to participate in independent living programs and modifies activity requirements to include volunteer activities and permits exceptions. Permits Department of Human Services (DHS) to pay grants for transportation expenses to enrolled persons.

*FISCAL: Minimal Fiscal Impact*

*REVENUE: No Revenue Impact*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Independent Living Program helps youth who are, or were, in foster care become self-sufficient adults. Through this program, youth learn skills necessary to transition from state or tribal custody to living on their own in their communities.

House Bill 2344-A modifies the qualifications for young people to participate in independent living programs, including specifying that qualified persons must be unmarried and between age 16 and 20. It also permits DHS to determine if the person has the skills and responsibilities to transition into adulthood. The measure modifies the activity requirements of residents in independent living programs to include volunteer activities and allows DHS to approve exceptions to the activities requirement. House Bill 2344-A also adds transportation costs to the list of expenses that DHS is permitted to offer direct grants for to people enrolled in an independent living program.