

HB 2344 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 4/19, 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies qualifications for young person 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:

- Current Independent Living Program operation
- Need to update statute to reflect modern living and economic conditions
- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Independent Living Program helps young people who are, or were, in foster care become self-sufficient adults. Through this program, young people 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.