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**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

Sen. Richard Devlin, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Chair

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Ways and Means Full Committee

From: Human Services Subcommittee

Re: SB 397 Relating to sharing of information between social services providers

Senator Steiner Hayward: "SB 397 requires the Department of Human Services to convene and provide support to a work group to create a standard client confidentiality release form to be used by entities that provide social services to allow for appropriate sharing of confidential information.

The bill also directs the Department of Justice to review state laws and identify statutes that could be modified to better facilitate communications among entities that provide social services. DOJ is required to submit any legislative proposals for these modifications to the 2019 Legislative Assembly. In addition, DOJ must develop and maintain a guide setting forth the applicable laws according to discipline, including but not limited to the release of information by child welfare agencies, law enforcement, juvenile justice agencies, schools, mental health treatment providers, health care providers, substance abuse treatment providers and human services providers. This guide must be available on the DOJ website by December 31, 2018 and must be updated annually. DOJ must also make efforts to notify affected entities of the availability of the guide by January 1, 2019.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 397 be reported out do pass."