

HB 2344 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Prepared By: Cassandra Soucy, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/9, 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Revises qualifications for minors to participate in independent living programs. Modifies activity requirements of residents in independent living programs to include volunteer activities and allowing exceptions to requirements.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Change terms from minors to persons.

Clarifies age for participation in independent residence facilities.

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 revises the qualifications for minors to participate in independent living programs through allowing DHS to determine the minor has the skills and responsibilities to transition into adulthood. The bill modifies the activity requirements of residents in independent living programs to include volunteer activities and allows DHS to approve exceptions to the activities requirement.