

HB 3067 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports

Action Date: 04/06/17

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 6-0-3-0

Yeas: 6 - Bynum, Hayden, Huffman, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Piluso

Exc: 3 - Hack, Malstrom, Smith DB

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates legislative findings on child care and resource referrals for families involved in court proceedings and government business. Authorizes Marion and Polk Counties to establish CourtCare pilot programs to provide quality child care to individuals and families. Requires CourtCare programs to serve as a clearinghouse for information and resource referrals. Directs county to ensure that staff at CourtCare program are enrolled in Central Background Registry and that program is certified or registered by the Office of Child Care. Requires contracts between the county and entity to report on outcomes. Directs counties to report on progress of pilot programs to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2019. Repeals program January 2, 2021. Appropriates \$200,000 out of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services beginning July 1, 2017. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Financial and other circumstances that require parents to bring their children to court
- Traumatic impact to children who witness court proceedings
- Cost and time to reschedule courtroom proceedings when children attend
- Impact of disruptive children in the courtroom
- Having a safe and nurturing space for children while parents attend court proceedings
- Intention to provide child care for all people accessing government services or only court proceedings
- Extension beyond pilot program
- Benefits of resource and referrals for services

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

When people attend court proceedings, meet with probation officers or handle other legal matters, they are often responsible for the care of their children. Children who are with their parents or guardians during court proceedings may witness conflict that creates trauma and stress for children. Trauma harms brain development and can lead to lifelong problems in learning, behavior, physical and mental health. Trauma differentially affects more vulnerable families. CourtCare was created in 2001 by Multnomah County Court to prevent children from experiencing trauma and to curb disruptions in the hearing room. The program provides free child care and court-related family services in a courthouse or in reasonable proximity to a courthouse.

House Bill 3067-A proposes a pilot program to fund a CourtCare program in Marion and Polk Counties, aimed at children from six weeks to ten years of age. The intention is to ensure children are in a safe and nurturing environment while parents and caregivers are in court proceedings and to minimize disruptions in the court room. House Bill 3067-A also offers to provide referrals and resources for families at CourtCare sites to help families access

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services, such as relief nurseries, early learning, health insurance, legal assistance and screenings for developmental health.