

HB 2344 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/24/17

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Gelser, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Exc: 1 - Knopp

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies qualifications for young person to participate in independent living programs. Adds volunteerism to list of possible activity requirements that may be included in independent living plan and permits exceptions. Adds transportation to list of expenses that may be covered by Department of Human Services (DHS) payment grants.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current Independent Living Program operation
- Updating 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. The current Independent Living Program is available to youth who are at least 16 years old and participants are required to maintain education, employment, or a combination of these that amounts to full-time activity. DHS may also establish a budget and make payment grants pursuant to an agreement with a participant, to cover food, shelter, clothing and incidental expenses.

House Bill 2344-A modifies the qualifications for young people to participate in independent living programs to specify that eligible persons must be unmarried, between the ages of 16 and 20, and have the skills and level of responsibility needed to transition into adulthood, as determined by DHS. The measure also allows volunteerism to be included in the list of activity requirements for enrollment along with work and educational activities, and allows DHS to approve exceptions. House Bill 2344-A also adds transportation to the list of expenses that DHS may cover through payment grants.