

SB 804 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Meeting Dates: 2/26, 3/7, 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies requirement that Department of Human Services (DHS) notify law enforcement of report of suspected child abuse in the county where the report was received, to the county where the alleged abuse occurred. Requires certain notifications to be made within five days of receipt rather than ten. Removes requirement that DHS engage in balancing exercise prior to making rules that govern notifications.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure
- Referral to another committee

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces requirement that DHS notify law enforcement in county where report of suspected child abuse was received, to require notification in county where alleged abuse occurred, county where child resides, or county where reporter came into contact with child or alleged perpetrator. Requires law enforcement agencies to notify DHS of reports of suspected child abuse using the child abuse reporting hotline.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND:

When the Department of Human Services (DHS) or a law enforcement agency receive information about suspected child abuse, they are currently required to notify each other, in the county where the report was received. In addition, when DHS makes rules governing its notification process, it must include a rule that compels notification of certain reports within ten days of receipt, and it must balance available resources with the need to provide the information.

Senate Bill 804 requires DHS to notify the law enforcement agency in the county where the abuse allegedly occurred, rather than in the county where the report was received. The measure also changes the rule that requires certain notifications to law enforcement within ten days of receipt of a report of suspected abuse, to within five days. Finally, Senate Bill 804 removes the requirement that DHS perform in a balancing exercise prior to making rules that govern notifications.