

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 2849

Relating to protective custody of children

HB 2849 restricts the circumstances under which a child may be placed into protective custody by the Department of Human Services, or others, without a protective custody order from the court.

The provisions of this bill will result in statewide application of the tighter standard for removal but should not result in a significant increase in requests for protective custody orders.

DHS will monitor the impact of this bill on the child welfare division and collect data on protective custody order requests. DHS may incur a fiscal impact if there are additional requests for Department of Justice assistance, but also may see cost savings with fewer removals. The fiscal impact to DHS is indeterminate.

Any fiscal impact on the Department of Justice, as counsel to DHS, or on the Judicial Department is contingent on DHS actions in response to this bill.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends HB 2849 be amended by the –A10 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.