

**HB 2033 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Noble, Rep. Sanchez

**House Committee On Human Services and Housing**

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**Action Date:** 04/08/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Helt, Keny-Guyer, Meek, Mitchell, Noble, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams, Zika

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Amie FenderSosa, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/6, 4/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Modifies minimum degree requirements from requiring at least a bachelor's degree to requiring at least an associate degree for Department of Human Services (DHS) caseworkers who conduct child abuse investigations or make determinations regarding the protective custody of children. Mandates that caseworkers who have a degree in a field that is not human-services related complete sufficient human services-related coursework and training as determined by rule.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Desire to bring more diverse employees into the child welfare casework field
- Qualifications of individuals who may not have a bachelor's degree
- Level of formal education that should be required for caseworkers
- Unique learning opportunities in college to learn about implicit bias, racism, trauma and oppression in college
- DHS should be allowed to consider higher education combined with real-life experiences

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Reduces minimum educational requirements for child welfare caseworkers from a bachelor's degree to an associate degree plus additional training related to the field of human services.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) houses the child abuse investigation and intervention (also known as child protective services or CPS), foster care, and adoption assistance programs. CPS-trained caseworkers across the state listen to reports of abuse, assess the situations, and prepare safety plans to assist children and families. CPS staff work closely with law enforcement agencies and other members of multidisciplinary teams in each county to assess child abuse reports. CPS and law enforcement agencies have a shared legal responsibility for taking child abuse reports and responding to them.

HB 2033- A reduces minimum educational requirements for child welfare caseworkers from a bachelor's degree to an associate degree, plus additional training related to the field of human services.