

## HB 3041 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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

**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

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

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

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/20, 4/8

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services to develop a program to distribute money directly to third-party providers of child care for children in foster care.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High cost of day care not covered by stipend for foster parent; around \$2,000 per month to meet basic needs only
- Difficult experience and struggle for working foster parent in one-income household with newborn

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

Foster parents and relative caregivers provide love and support to children in foster care. Children in foster care often have special challenges and needs. Training, certification, and continuing education requirements must be met before an individual can become a foster parent or relative caregiver, and funds are available to help offset financial burdens. The base payment varies depending on the age of the child, from \$693 to \$795 per month. There is an additional stipend to help working foster parents with the cost of child care, of up to \$375 a month for each child under the age of six. The foster parent must work with the child's caseworker to find qualifying child care and complete an authorization form; then pay for child care out-of-pocket; then submit an invoice for reimbursement on a monthly basis.

House Bill 3041 directs the Department of Human Services to develop means for direct payment to third-party child care providers for children in foster care.