

SB 1518 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) submit to the court documents necessary to finalize specified pending adoption proceedings no later than June 30, 2020. Directs DHS submit report to Legislative Assembly regarding finalized adoptions no later than September 1, 2020. Directs DHS submit report to Legislative Assembly regarding adoption of definition of "candidate for foster care" in rule for purpose of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act. Specifies criteria DHS must include in definition of "candidate for foster care." Modifies definition of "exempt prohibited individual" for purposes of Central Background Registry (Registry). Allows Office of Child Care to conditionally enroll an individual in the Registry upon successful completion of criminal, child abuse, and neglect records checks. Declares policy that an individual may not be disqualified from providing child welfare services on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, or for the sole reason that the individual received child welfare services as a child or youth. Declares policy that a child, ward, or youth may not be prohibited from, disciplined for, or retaliated against for publicly or privately speaking about experiences receiving child welfare services. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Modifies criteria DHS must consider in definition of "candidate for foster care."

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 1518 is an omnibus bill relating to children. It includes issues concerning adoptions, foster care, child care, and child welfare.

According to the Department of Human Services (DHS), 55.5 percent of children available for adoption between January 2017 and September 2019 were not adopted within 12 months of entering foster care, and of them, 69 percent remained in foster care. SB 1518 directs DHS to submit to the court documents necessary to finalize pending adoption proceedings no later than June 30, 2020, and to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly regarding finalized adoptions no later than September 1, 2020.

The federal Family First Prevention Services Act provides federal financial supports to states and tribes for specific services for "candidates for foster care." SB 1518 directs DHS to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly regarding adopting a definition for "candidate for foster care" in rule. The measure directs DHS to consider a definition that allows families access to services prior to children entering foster care, allows for collaboration with the courts, and includes opportunities to improve alternatives to removal for populations at risk of disproportionate removal.

Exempt prohibited individuals are not permitted to provide child care within five years of becoming an exempt prohibited individual. An exempt prohibited individual is defined as an individual whose certification, registration, or enrollment in the Central Background Registry (Registry) has been revoked or removed. SB 1518 modifies the

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definition of "exempt prohibited individual" to specify an individual whose certification, registration, or enrollment in the Registry has been revoked or removed for cause. The measure also allows the Office of Child Care to conditionally enroll an individual in the Registry upon successful completion of criminal, child abuse, and neglect records checks.

SB 1518 declares policy that an individual may not be disqualified from providing child welfare services on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, or for the sole reason that the individual received child welfare services as a child or youth. The measure also declares policy that a child, ward, or youth may not be prohibited from, disciplined for, or retaliated against for publicly or privately speak about experiences receiving child welfare services.