

SB 1518 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Gelser**Senate Committee On Human Services****Action Date:** 02/05/20**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Beyer, Findley, Gelser, Golden, Heard**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Jamie Hinsz, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/3, 2/5**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to make reasonable efforts to 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 individual in 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:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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

BACKGROUND:

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.

The Family First Prevention Services Act provides federal financial support to states and tribes for specific services for any child or youth who is a "candidate for foster care."

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.

Senate Bill 1518-A is an omnibus bill relating to children. It includes issues concerning pending adoptions, defining "candidate for foster care," background checks for child care providers, and child welfare policies.