

SB 84 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/18, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to report to the Legislature on Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families programs by September 15, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Using placeholder in case legislation is needed to further implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Act
- DHS' submission of required Prevention Plan to the U.S. Children's Bureau November 2020 pending approval

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 964, to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement programs to reunify children in its custody with their families, to help children remain there safely, and to support and preserve intact families, in collaboration with local community partners. The measure prioritized culturally competent services and evidence-based practices. Programs under this umbrella and the effort writ large is referred to as Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families. DHS is currently required to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature.

Senate Bill 84 requires DHS to report on Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families programs to the Legislature by September 15, 2022.