

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 710

Relating to children in care

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Lieber

SB 710 prohibits child-caring agencies, proctor foster homes, certified foster homes, or developmental disabilities residential facilities from placing a child in care in restraint or involuntary seclusion as a form of discipline, punishment, or retaliation. Restraint or involuntary seclusion may be used in cases when a child’s behavior poses a risk of bodily harm to the child or others; and if specific circumstances are met, as outlined in this measure.

Programs must report quarterly to the Department of Human Services on their use of restraint and involuntary seclusion. DHS is to adopt by rule training standards and certification requirements for providers regarding use of restraint and involuntary seclusion.

DHS anticipates costs of \$4.4 million total funds, including \$1.5 million General Fund, for implementation of this measure. This includes hiring four new positions to provide for increased oversight of child caring agencies, and to fulfill data and reporting requirements. DHS also anticipates that the trainings, mandatory meetings, and reporting requirements under this measure will increase the cost per case for the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Children’s Residential Services program.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 710 be amended by the – A7 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.