

HB 3256 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 3/6, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows child residing in developmental disability child foster home to be attended by child's parent or guardian only with approval from Department of Human Services (DHS). Allows child aged 18 to 26 to continue to reside in developmental disability child foster home with approval from DHS. Directs DHS to adopt rules for granting approvals. Specifies that operator of developmental disability child foster home may not be related to child by adoption.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of parent or guardian when child is placed in developmental disability child foster home
- Situations when a parent may need to attend to child
- Differences between voluntary and involuntary placements
- Alignment of statutory language with existing administrative rules
- Importance of keeping families together in foster care placements
- Ability of providers to decline placements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A developmental disability child foster home is a small residential care facility that provides care for four to seven children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The children in care are generally under age 18 but may be up to age 22 in some cases. The operator of a home is unrelated to the children in care, and parents or guardians do not reside in the home and do not attend to the children. However, a parent or guardian's role is to advocate for a child's needs as a member of the individual support plan team, alongside the child, service provider representatives, and a case manager from the community developmental disabilities program. Current law prohibits a child who is residing in a developmental disability child foster home from being attended by a parent or guardian.

House Bill 3256 allows a parent or guardian to attend to a child in a developmental disability child foster home with approval from DHS and directs DHS to develop standards for granting approvals by administrative rule.