

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Beyer, Kruse, Prozanski, Walker, Burdick

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Bill Taylor, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/20, 3/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows the court to direct the Department of Human Services (DHS) to place a child with parents, relatives or another foster care provider.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Importance of family and relatives to child
- Importance of continuity

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Allows for placement with parents, relatives or another foster care provider.

**BACKGROUND:** A court may take jurisdiction of a person under the age of 18 if the child's welfare is being endangered, or the child has been neglected, abandoned or subjected to abuse. If the child is removed from the home, the court usually awards custody to the Children, Adults and Families Division of the DHS.

Studies show that children who are placed with relatives, or persons with whom they have a close relationship, adjust better than children placed with strangers.