

HB 3249

Relating to grandparent rights

House Bill 3249 requires the Department of Human Services to make thorough efforts to locate grandparents of a child committed to the department's custody in order to give notice to the grandparents of a hearing concerning the child. The bill also establishes a procedure for the juvenile court to consider a grandparent's request for visitation or other contact with a child who is in the agency's custody.

The bill has a minimal fiscal impact.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 3249 be reported out do pass.

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Krieger
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Winters

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote:

House

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

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Meeting Date: May 24, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Human Services to exercise due diligence to locate grandparents of a child who is before a court in a dependency matter where there is an allegation of abuse and neglect and the court is considering placing the child outside the home. Gives grandparents a right to be heard in a dependency matter involving a grandchild. Allows a grandparent visitation rights with a grandchild in dependency matter except in a termination of parental rights proceeding. Applies to proceedings commenced on or after the effective date of this Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Specific types of situations addressed by the bill
- Recognition of how email or other “non-visitation” contact can help support relationship between child and grandparent

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In Oregon, 28,000 grandparents have custody of their grandchildren. Currently, the Department of Human Services will give notice to a grandparent of a dependency proceeding involving a grandchild if the grandparent requests notice but not seek them out. Research shows that children placed with grandparents or other family members do better than when placed with strangers.