PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY   CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None (needs subsequent referral to JWM?)

Action:
Vote:
          Yeas:
          Nays:
          Exc.:
Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/7, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Corrections (DOC) contract with nonprofits to provide programs for incarcerated parents and their children. Specifies culturally-appropriate parenting training and parent-child interaction. Requires DOC compare outcomes for program participants against outcomes for nonparticipants. Requires annual report to Legislature by September 1st. Appropriates $2 million General Fund for 2015-2017 biennium to implement.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Similar past programs
- Number of inmates that are parents
- Following best practices

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:
[*-2 amendment*] States primary and secondary goals. Specifies gender-appropriate training. Requires DOC provide support that takes trauma into account. Requires mental health professionals with particular training. Specifies requirements of parenting training. Specifies requirements of parent-child interaction. Adds further requirements: facilitation of parent-teacher conferences; intensive communications between parents and caregivers; funding for transportation and lodging; physical space for activities; home services referrals; attorney referrals; assistance with state agencies and nonprofits; and measureable outcomes connected to goals. Requires DOC perform an evaluation process with DHS' and nonprofits' participation. Requires determination whether goals met and surveys of incarcerated parents, in addition to comparison of outcomes. Replaces annual reporting requirement with biannual reporting. Requires DHS' cooperate with DOC and nonprofits in accessing DHS' services for eligible inmates.

BACKGROUND:

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.
Committee Services Form – 2015 Regular Session