SB 745 -3   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Meeting Dates:	3/12, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct annual in-person case planning meetings with every ward age 14 or older, inform ward of eligibility for transition services, and provide ward with application assistance, as appropriate. Requires DHS to report on access to transition services annually by September 15, as specified. Appropriates $8,500,000 from General Fund to DHS for provision of transition services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Clarifies that DHS is to provide ward with access to transition services. Removes DHS reporting requirements.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued.

BACKGROUND:

The Independent Living Program (ILP) provides training and classes to youth in foster care to prepare them to live independently. According to the Department of Human Services (DHS), there are currently 39 ILP providers, and 1,357 youth received ILP services in 2017. Current law requires DHS to ensure that case planning for foster youth who have reached age 14 addresses their needs and goals for a successful transition to adulthood.

Senate Bill 745 requires DHS to conduct annual in-person case planning meetings with every foster youth age 14 or older. DHS must inform them about their eligibility for ILP services and provide assistance applying for same during case planning meetings. Additionally, the measure directs DHS to submit an annual report to the Legislature by September 15th that includes data regarding the number of youth who were eligible for ILP, the number that applied, the number that did not apply, and efforts DHS undertook to inform youth of available services as well as the purpose of ILP. Finally, Senate Bill 745 appropriates $8,500,000 General Fund dollars to DHS for ILP services to eligible foster youth.