

HB 2804 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Carrier: Rep. Sosa

Action Date: 03/20/23

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-1-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Andersen, Cramer, Hartman, Hieb, Nelson, Neron, Nguyen H, Reynolds, Scharf

Nays: 1 - Elmer

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/15, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to use workload models to assess capacity and needs of workforce in each program and unit. Directs DHS to report on assessment to legislative committees by September 30 of each even-numbered year. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Workloads of caseworkers in DHS
- Working conditions, retention, and recruitment
- Definition and selection of workload models
- Current modeling conducted by agency as part of budget process

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces reference to Department of Human Services divisions with department's programs and units. Requires department to report to interim legislative committees by September 30 of each even-numbered year, rather than annually by February 1.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is the largest state agency in terms of workforce size, with roughly 10,200 full-time equivalent positions. The divisions of DHS include Aging and People with Disabilities, Child Welfare, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services, Self-Sufficiency Programs, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Central and Shared Services, each of which operate several offices, units, and programs. Many of these employees are caseworkers, eligibility specialists, or service providers who work directly with individuals affected by the programs administered by DHS. According to the Legislative Fiscal Office, DHS uses models to determine the appropriate staffing service level for most of its programs and recently contracted studies that recommended shifting from caseload-based models to models that reflect workload standards.

House Bill 2804 A requires DHS to use workload models to assess capacity and needs of workforce in each division and submit regular reports to legislative committees.