

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

This analysis is neither a formal Attorney General's Opinion nor an Attorney General's Advisory Letter. This is a staff analysis in response to an agency's, committee's, or legislator's request.

Synopsis:

This Bill proposes changes and additions to the language of the Abuse and Neglect Act. The changes appear to be aimed at improving the procedures for consideration of placement of an abused or neglected child with grandparents and other relatives, including parents of siblings.

The changes include (1) additions to the definitions to define "fictive kin," "relative," and "sibling;" (2) a new requirement for notice of a petition filed by CYFD seeking legal custody to grandparents and other relatives; (3) language establishing a preference for placement of a child in the home of a relative; (4) language requiring the predisposition report to state the efforts made to identify and locate grandparents and other relatives; (5) language requiring the children's court to state in its findings on disposition whether reasonable efforts to identify and locate grandparents and other relatives has been made, and language eliminating that finding from the court's permanency determination (in other words requiring the finding to be made at an earlier time in the proceedings); (6) replaces the potential disposition of transfer of legal custody to an agency with transfer of legal custody to CYFD; (7) adds the option of continuing CYFD's legal custody of a child for up to six months for a transition to the permanent placement; and (8) adds language permitting disclosure of confidential information to (a) grandparents and other relatives being considered for permanent placement, (b) the federal government as required by federal law, and, (c) with the consent of the child's parent or legal custodian, any person attending a meeting regarding the well-being and permanent placement of a child under age fourteen.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None noted

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Under the current statute, CYFD must conduct a reasonable investigation to identify and locate grandparents and other relatives who would be willing to take custody of an alleged abused or neglected child, but the issue is not addressed until the permanency hearing. The changes require CYFD and the court to address this issue earlier in the proceedings. It appears the most

significant change is the provision that would allow the court to continue CYFD's custody of the child for up to six months to allow for a transition to the permanent placement.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relationship to HB 50. HB 68, HB 69

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The procedures for abuse and neglect proceedings will remain the same.

AMENDMENTS