
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 294

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

SUMMARY:

By law, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner or any agent she appoints must carefully supervise children under her guardianship and care. The commissioner or agent must maintain contact with the child and the child's foster family to promote the child's safety and his or her physical, educational, moral, and emotional development. This bill requires the commissioner or agent to visit each foster home at least once every 60 days.

The bill also requires the commissioner, within 60 days after a child or youth with behavioral health needs is placed in DCF care and custody, to visit the family home or homes of such child or youth. The purpose of the visit is, at a minimum, to (1) assess the potential causes of the child's behavioral health needs, including genetic and familial factors and (2) determine the resources needed to best treat the child.

Finally, the bill requires DCF to (1) prescribe a form for foster families to use when submitting special requests to DCF on the child's behalf and (2) respond to these requests within five business days or the requests are deemed approved. Special requests include asking that a foster child be allowed to travel overnight or out-of-state with his or her foster family.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 8 Nay 0 (03/08/2012)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/22/2012)