
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 43

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STATUTES.

SUMMARY:

This bill allows the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner, within available appropriations, to provide funds to foster or prospective adoptive families to make home modifications to safely accommodate a foster child with physical disabilities. The commissioner or her designee must determine the type of modification and amount of funds to provide, taking into account the family's available income and resources. DCF may modify, suspend, or discontinue the funds at any time.

The bill conforms the law to current DCF practice by eliminating references to certified relative caregivers, an obsolete term. DCF stopped certifying relative caregivers approximately 10 years ago when the federal government began requiring all caregivers to be licensed to be eligible for federal foster care and adoption services reimbursement.

The bill replaces obsolete references to the "differential response" program with the "family assessment response" program. PA 13-54 renamed the DCF differential response program the family assessment response program.

The bill also makes other minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014, except for two sections that make minor technical changes, which are effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The original bill (File 25) was referred to the Human Services

Committee, which reported it with a joint favorable substitute on March 31. The substitute language deleted provisions related to repaying home modification funds to DCF and authorizing DCF to place a lien on the home. It also deleted a provision that repealed certain DCF reporting requirements.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 8 Nay 4 (03/04/2014)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/31/2014)