

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1101

As Reported by House Committee On:
Early Learning & Children's Services

Title: An act relating to modifying a foster parent license due to a change of residence.

Brief Description: Modifying foster parent licenses.

Sponsors: Representatives Roberts, Kagi and Kenney.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Early Learning & Children's Services: 1/23/09, 1/30/09 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Permits continuation of a foster family home license when the foster family relocates to a new home and provides the Department of Social and Health Services with advance notice.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Kagi, Chair; Roberts, Vice Chair; Haler, Ranking Minority Member; Walsh, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Angel, Goodman and Seaquist.

Staff: Sydney Forrester (786-7120)

Background:

Foster family home licenses issued by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) are issued for the foster family's current home and are location-specific. Absent a change in circumstances, foster family home licenses are issued for a period of three years. When a foster family moves to a new residence, the license remains in effect for two weeks after the move, if the home has a history of acceptable care and the foster family remains intact. Following the two-week extension, however, the foster family must undergo the process of re-licensure at the family's new home.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

When a licensed foster family moves to a new residence, the license will remain in effect for 30 days after the relocation. This 30-day extension is conditioned on the foster family remaining intact after the move and the family having had an acceptable history of providing foster care under the license.

Before relocating, the foster family must notify their licensor of the intended move and request a continuation of the license at the new location. If the new home and the foster family still meet minimum licensing standards, the DSHS must amend the license to reflect the family's new location within 30 days of receiving the request for continuation of the license.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill will help avoid the need for re-licensure when a foster family moves while their license is still active. It will assist in maintaining stability in foster home licenses, recognizing foster families may move, upgrade, change jobs, etc. When a foster family moves they may be occupied with many relocation activities in the first two weeks in the new home. This bill allows foster parents within a more realistic time frame to request an amendment to their license without risking the possibility of jeopardizing federal matching funds if the new home is not relicensed within the current two-week time limit.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Roberts; and Darcey Hancock, Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Department of License Resources.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.