(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 2/13/12)

Implements a flexible response system within child protective services, including a family assessment response, to better serve families where alleged maltreatment does not present a serious or imminent threat of substantial harm to children.

Requires the department of social and health services to: (1) Select at least two sites to begin the process of implementing family assessment response for child protective services statewide; and

(2) Develop an implementation plan in consultation with stakeholders, and in compliance with intergovernmental agreements between the state and tribal governments.

Requires the state institute for public policy to conduct a rigorous evaluation of each implementation site and define data to be gathered and maintained for evaluation purposes in consultation with a university-based child welfare research entity in the state and the department of social and health services in compliance with applicable provisions of intergovernmental agreements between the state and tribal governments.

Prohibits family assessment response referral and case information from being disclosed for background check purposes.