

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

HB 1737

Title: *An act relating to permanency planning and adoption advocates; and creating a new section.*

Brief Description: *Reallocating social worker positions to create permanency planning and adoption advocates.*

Sponsors: *Representative Boldt.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Meeting Date: *February 18, 1999.*

Bill Analysis Prepared by: *Dave Knutson (786-7146).*

Background: A concern has been raised that children in foster care stay in placement too long. If additional attention was paid to implementing a permanency plan of family reunification or adoption, children would spend less time in foster care placements.

Summary of Bill: The Department of Social and Health Services is directed to reallocate six existing social worker positions into permanency planning and adoption advocates. These staff would be directed to implement children's permanency plans more quickly than is currently the case.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: None.

Effective Date: *Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.*