

HB 3115-S - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 2ND SUB)

Finds that: (1) Foster parents are able to successfully maintain placements of children who are sexually reactive, physically assaultive, or who have other high-risk behaviors when they are provided with proper training and support. Lack of support contributes to placement disruptions and multiple moves between foster homes.

(2) Young children who have experienced repeated early abuse and trauma are at high risk for behavior later in life that is sexually deviant, if left untreated. Placement with a well-trained, prepared, and supported foster family can break this cycle.

Establishes a foster parent critical support and retention program to retain foster parents who care for children who act out sexually, are physically assaultive, or have other high-risk behaviors. The foster parent critical support and retention program is to be implemented under the division of children and family services' contract and supervision. A contractor must demonstrate experience providing in-home case management to foster homes that are licensed through the division of children and family services.

Provides that, under the foster parent critical support and retention program, foster parents who care for children who act out sexually and/or physically or have other high-risk behaviors shall receive: (1) Twenty-four/seven emergency assistance;

(2) Assessment of risk and development of a safety and supervision plan;

(3) Home-based foster parent training utilizing evidence-based models;

(4) Ongoing support groups; and

(5) Referral to community services.

Appropriates the sum of two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the division of children and family services for direct services for the purposes of this act.