

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2347

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to the review of support payments.

Brief Description: Concerning the review of support payments.

Sponsors: Representative Kagi.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Ways & Means: 4/14/09, 4/18/09 [DP].

Floor Activity

Passed House: 4/20/09, 98-0.

Passed Senate: 4/23/09, 48-0.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes the requirement that the Department of Social and Health Services conduct a review of Adoption Support Agreements at least once every five years.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 22 members: Representatives Linville, Chair; Ericks, Vice Chair; Alexander, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Dammeier, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Haigh, Hinkle, Hunt, Hunter, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Pettigrew, Priest, Ross, Schmick, Seaquist and Sullivan.

Staff: Melissa Palmer (786-7388)

Background:

The Adoption Support Program assists families adopting children who have been in out-of-home care by providing ongoing financial and medical support to qualified children based on state and federal regulations.

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.

To qualify for adoption support through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the child must:

- be less than 18 years of age when the DSHS and the adoptive parent have signed the Adoption Support Agreement;
- be legally free (birth parent's rights have been terminated);
- be residing in or likely to be placed in out-of-home care; and
- have special needs.

Adoptive parents of a child who qualifies for the Adoption Support Program are able to receive an adoption subsidy. The subsidy is a negotiated monthly cash payment provided to adoptive families to help cover some of the expenses involved in raising a child with special needs. The amount of the payment is based on the child's needs and the family's circumstances, jointly determined through the negotiation between the family and the DSHS, and must not exceed the amount the child would receive if the child were in a foster family home.

The DSHS is required to review adoption support agreements at least once every five years. Additionally, an adoptive parent that receives adoption support may request at any time, in writing, a review of the amount of payment or the level of continuing payments. The review is to take place no later than 30 days from the receipt of the request. As a result of the review, the DSHS may adjust support payments based upon changes in the needs of the child, the parent's income, resources, and expenses.

Summary of Bill:

The requirement that the DSHS must conduct adoption support reviews every five years is removed. The adoptive parent may, at any time, make a written request for a review and receive a review no later than 30 days from the request.

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:

None.

Persons Testifying: None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.