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**Ways & Means Committee**

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**SB 6181**

**Brief Description:** Concerning the intensive resource home pilot.

**Sponsors:** Senators Tom, Prentice and Fairley.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Directs the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to begin implementation of the Intensive Resource Home (IRH) providers pilot when funding has been appropriated by the Legislature for the pilot, rather than by October 1, 2008.
- Delays implementation of and removes reporting requirements relating to the foster care intensive resource home pilot program.

**Hearing Date:** 4/25/09

**Staff:** Melissa Palmer (786-7388)

**Background:**

In 2008, the Legislature enacted Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 3145 (Chapter 281, Laws of 2008) directing the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to implement phase one of a specialized foster parent program in two or more geographic areas with high concentrations of children with significant needs in foster care. The intensive resource home (IRH) providers pilot program was to include a monthly stipend in addition to the foster care maintenance payment, as well as monthly consultations, annual training, and annual reviews of foster parents in the program.

The legislation required the DSHS to begin the pilot on or before October 1, 2008; however, implementation was delayed due to the freeze on new personal services contracts. Currently, there are no IRH providers and the payment of the monthly stipend has not begun. By September 1, 2009, the DSHS is required to report to the Legislature and Governor regarding a plan to expand the pilot project.

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*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 funding is appropriated by the Legislature, the DSHS must begin selection and negotiation of contracts with IRH providers in the pilot sites. The October 1, 2008, date is removed along with the specific dates for reporting to the Legislature and the Governor on the progress of the pilots and a plan for expansion.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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