

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB24-125 be amended as follows:

1 Amend printed bill, page 2, before line 2 insert:

2 "SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Child abuse and neglect is a crisis that affects the safety and
5 welfare of vulnerable children on a global, national, state, and county
6 level;

7 (b) Finding the appropriate temporary or permanent placement for
8 vulnerable children is key to helping families successfully navigate the
9 child welfare system;

10 (c) Although local placements are sought to mitigate disruption
11 for these vulnerable children, there are times when a placement in another
12 state is the best and most stable option;

13 (d) The interstate compact for the placement of children was
14 created to allow assessment of placements in other states and to ensure
15 services would be provided after placement;

16 (e) However, the existing interstate compact for the placement of
17 children, established in 1960 and adopted by Colorado in 1975, is now
18 applied inconsistently among the member states, creating delays and
19 inconsistencies in placements;

20 (f) The revised interstate compact for the placement of children
21 will remove barriers and allow for the timely placement of children in
22 safe and appropriate homes. Additionally, member states will have the
23 opportunity to participate in a rule-making process that will provide
24 consistency in the implementation and application of the regulations.

25 (g) The revised interstate compact for the placement of children
26 also provides additional clarifying language acknowledging that if a
27 portion of the statutory language is found unconstitutional by a member
28 state's highest court, that portion is severable from the compact for that
29 state; and

30 (h) The first thirty-five states to pass the revised interstate
31 compact will be included in the drafting process for the regulations.

32 (2) Therefore, the general assembly determines that:

33 (a) By adopting the revised language for the interstate compact for
34 the placement of children, Colorado is ensured a voice at the table and
35 can be a leader in bringing other states on board and drafting the new
36 regulations that consider and reflect all Colorado stakeholder viewpoints;
37 and

38 (b) Colorado representation at the interstate commission will
39 ensure child, family, and parent voices are represented."

40 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

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