

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

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March 7, 2024

Chair of Committee

Date

Committee on Health & Human Services.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

SB24-125 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation and with a recommendation that it be placed on the consent calendar:

- 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

1 state's highest court, that portion is severable from the compact for that  
2 state; and

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

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

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

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

13 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

14 Page 4, line 14, strike "JUDGE" and substitute "JUDGE, MAGISTRATE,".

15 Page 7, line 13, strike "A RELATIVE" and substitute "RELATIVE(S)".

16 Page 7, line 20, before "MEDICAL" insert "OTHER".

17 Page 8, line 18, strike "YET".

18 Page 9, line 18, strike "THE" and substitute "THIS".

19 Page 16, line 8, after "APPROVE" insert "THE".

20 Page 25, line 2, strike the first "A" and substitute "THE".

21 Page 27, line 3, strike "INTERSTATE".

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