

## JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE BILL

### SUMMARY OF S.B. 18-254: CONCERNING REFORMS TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

**Prime Sponsors:** Senators Lambert and Moreno and Representatives Young and Rankin

#### Bill Summary

The bill addresses numerous reforms to the funding structure for the state's child welfare services.

**SECTION 1** of the bill clarifies the types of child welfare services that must be available and provided, as necessary and appropriate, by county departments of human or social services (county departments).

**SECTIONS 2 AND 7** of the bill eliminate the option for county departments to maintain unspent general fund money from the child welfare services block allocation if they participate in the collaborative management program or the integrated care management program.

**SECTION 3** of the bill adds a statutory definition of and citation to the federal "Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018".

**SECTION 4** of the bill creates a program in the child welfare system for residential out-of-home placements for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**SECTION 5** of the bill:

- Changes the number of and process for appointments to the child welfare allocations committee; and
- Requires the development of a child welfare system funding model.

**SECTION 6** of the bill:

- Increases the percentage that counties are reimbursed by the state for adoption and relative guardianship subsidies from 80% to 90%;
- Formalizes the input process of the child welfare allocations committee;
- Allows the department of human services (state department) to submit supplemental budget requests for increases in out-of-home placement provider rates and adoption and relative guardianship expenditures;
- Modifies language concerning negotiations between county departments and providers for out-of-home placement rates;
- Requires capacity evaluations in counties or regions;
- Requires the state department to perform an analysis and cost projections to determine the fiscal impact on the state for changes in federal reimbursement rates for child welfare expenditures that result from the federal "Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018";
- Modifies the close-out process for child welfare expenditures; and
- Creates a child welfare prevention and intervention services cash fund into which unspent general fund money allocated to county departments through block allocations are transferred for sustainability of state-approved prevention and intervention programs and services.

**SECTION 8** of the bill creates the delivery of child welfare services task force.