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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Vigil DATE TYPED 2/18/04 HB HJM 102
 SHORT TITLE Grandparent Decisions on Adopted Children SB _____
 ANALYST Maloy

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	NFI		See Narrative	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 102 states:

- Parents sometimes must put their children up for adoption because of financial situations, abusive living situations, and the like.
- These children deserve loving homes.
- Capable grandparents often desire to adopt the children, are in the position to provide a loving and caring home, and are the logical choice to raise the children.

On these premises, the memorial resolves:

- The Children, Youth and Families Department be requested to give grandparents first priority when determine who should have custody of children whose parents put them up for adoption.

Significant Issues

There should be a clear distinction between adoptions that occur because of situations outlined in this memorial (i.e., situations that give rise to intervention by the Children, Youth and Families Department), and newborns whose birthparents seek to have them adopted into “anonymous” loving homes. Grandparents should not be permitted to block intentions of a birthparent wanting an anonymous placement.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This memorial does not contain an appropriation. It may result in savings through simplified administrative processes, the quicker placement of children and fewer children requiring state services.

SJM/dm