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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/08/11
 LAST UPDATED 03/11/11 **HB** _____

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino

SHORT TITLE Amend Child Placement Agency Licensing Act **SB** 285/aSFL#1

ANALYST Haug

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SFL Amendment #1

Senate Floor Amendment #1 restores language requiring that the regulations not proscribe or interfere with the religious beliefs or religious training of child placement agencies and foster homes, except when the beliefs or training endanger the child's health or safety.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 285 amends the Child Placement Agency Licensing Act. It clarifies responsibilities of child placement agencies; it places in statute revocations, suspensions, denials, and non-renewals of licenses to operate child placement agencies or foster homes and the appeal rights of operators which are presently covered only by agency rule and conforms the statute to the oversight authority which transferred from the Human Services Department Social Services Division to the Protective Services Division of the Children, Youth, and Families Department at the time of CYFD's creation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 285 contains no appropriation and has no fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The CYFD comments that SB 285:

Correctly identifies Children, Youth & Families Department and the Protective Services Division as the responsible state agency.

Expands the definition of foster care to not exclude children who require foster care for reasons other than abuse and neglect.

Clarifies licensing for private child placement agencies and foster homes.

Provides CYFD and child placement agencies with the option of issuing foster home licenses for up to two years.

Provides that the rules promulgated as required by the act address the maintenance of records concerning agency personnel, foster parents and foster parent applications.

Removes the focus from the agency and foster home's religious beliefs to allow for attention to the child's and the child's parent's religious belief.

Allows for appeals of agency and CYFD decisions concerning licensing of agencies and foster care homes.

Allows for expedited administrative hearing on licensing actions that impact the health or safety issues of a child.

Clarifies that when a foster home license is denied, suspended, revokes or not reviewed that the care and control of any child placed is transferred to the child placement agency or protective services division.

GH/mew:svb