

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA
REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON

Committee Substitute for Sponsor Substitute for House Bill 54

Summary of Changes from SSHB 54 to CSHB 54 version R

Page 1, line 2:

Deletes “and family friends”

This change was made at the request of the Office of Children’s Services (OCS). The inclusion of family friends in AS 47.10.035 created a new requirement that family friends be notified when a child is removed from their home. Determining which family friends were required to be notified of the removal of the child would be difficult to determine, and would create an onerous requirement for OCS to comply with. Family friends will still be considered as potential foster parents.

Page 1, lines 6:

Deletes “or adult family friend” for the reasons stated above.

Page 1, line 10:

Deletes “and appropriate adult family friends” for the reasons state above.

Page 1, line 14:

Changes “certify” to “verify”.

This change was made at the request of OCS. OCS feels that a verification of a family member search can be done using current documentation methods, while a certification may have required additional documentation.

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Page 2, line 2 1-3:

Deletes "The information provided under this subsection shall be submitted to the court for consideration before the next scheduled hearing after the due diligence period specified in (a) of this section."

This change was made at the request of OCS. Submitting this information to the court was a redundant requirement, as all the information is made available to all parties as part of the discovery process.

Page 2, following line 19:

Inserts a new section to read: "Sec. 3. AS 47.14.100 is amended by adding a new subsection to read: (u) The department may provide for emergency placement of a child while conducting due diligence under AS 47.10.035 and (e) of this section."

This change was made at the request of OCS and the Department of Law. There was some concern that Sec. 2 (e) of the bill could prohibit OCS from making an emergency placement for a child the day they are removed from their home. This change clarifies that a child may be placed in an emergency or temporary foster home until a family search has been conducted and a permanent placement has been approved.

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