

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Law Subcommittee

TO: Title 47, various

OFFERED BY: Representative Jason Grenn

RECOMMENDED STATUTE CHANGE:

Perform a comprehensive review of Child Protection statutes, for the purposes of streamlining the process and evaluating whether the various pieces of the court proceedings work well together. Among things to examine include combining the adjudication and disposition hearings, allowing a no-contest plea by parents, and the creation of settlement judges who focus entirely on Child In Need of Aid cases.

EXPLANATION: Many different adjustments to the Child In Need of Aid system have been made over the years, sometimes without regard to how these adjustments interact. A comprehensive review could reduce burdens on courts, public defenders, and Department of Law Child Protection attorneys. Combining the adjudication and disposition portion of the process could reduce the number of court hearings. A no-contest plea would allow parents to avoid litigating claims made against them without admitting to underlying behavior. Settlement judges could resolve cases in hours that currently take days.