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Senate Bill 181 Child Placement; Diligent Search

Summary of Changes Version H to Y

Section 1 – Clarifies that while foster parents may request hearings regarding placement under AS 47.10.080(s), they are not parties to child in need of aid cases.

Section 2 – Clarifies the requirements for family searches in AS 47.10.088(i) when OCS is determining final placement of a child following termination of parental rights.

Section 2 – Retains eligibility for foster care license as standard for notification

Section 2 – Changes “courts” to “department” on page 2, lines 27 and 29 of as the Department of Family and Youth Services is responsible for the actions taken under AS 47.10.088(i) and not the Court System.

Section 4 – Removes the search requirement following a transfer of placement under AS 47.10.080(s) on page 3 line 21 – 23. This requirement is not in other Alaska statutes regarding family searches and could place an undue requirement on the Department as in some cases transfer can be of very short duration, such as to provide overnight inpatient medical care.

Section 4 – Removes the requirement from the new language in AS 47.10.145 to provide written notice in languages other than English. This may create undue hardship for the Department as there are 250 languages spoken in Alaska.

Section 4 – Replaces the requirement on page 4, lines 23 - 24 to file with the court information regarding the Department’s progress on family searches 10 days in advance of hearings with a requirement to provide the information in writing at the time of a hearing. Cuts language directing oral reports of information received after the 10-day filing deadline as all information will be reported at the time of the hearing.

Section 5 – Adds language to clarify that the preferences in AS 47.14.100(e)(3)(A) should be applied in consideration of the best interest of the child.

Section 6 – Retains eligibility for foster care license as standard for placement of a child

Section 6 – Adds language to AS 47.14.100(m) to clarify that non-parties requesting review hearings under AS 47.10.080(s) are not eligible for publicly appointed legal counsel.

Section 7 – Adds a new section that would require the Department to assist family members and family friends in the process of seeking licensing and waivers to licensing requirements under AS 47.32.032.