Present law provides for the Protect and Save our Children Program for issuance of special identification cards for persons under the age of 16 years old. Present law further provides that the card will be issued without cost to a foster child.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) shall obtain one of the following no later than 90 days after a foster child is placed in the custody of the state:

1. For a child age 14 or older, a special identification card issued for the child.
2. For a child under age 14 who does not qualify for a special identification card, a photograph of the child.

Proposed law provides that if DCFS is unable to comply with proposed law due to the child's incarceration, elopement, physical or mental disability, or specialized placement where the child cannot be transported, or upon approval of the court, the department shall obtain the special identification card or photograph no later than 90 days from the date the condition preventing compliance ceases to exist.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 46:286.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Requires DCFS to obtain the special identification card or photograph.
2. Limits the requirement for a special identification card to children age 14 or older.
3. Allows DCFS 90 days to comply with proposed law once a barrier to initial compliance no longer exists.