
DIGEST

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HB 37 Original

2021 Regular Session

Bacala

Abstract: Requires supervisory visits from the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or its designee in agency adoptions and private adoptions; requires non-identifying statistical information be reported to DCFS; requires DCFS to report statistics on adoptions in-state and out-of-state; and shortens the length of time for the final decree at first hearing for private adoptions.

Proposed law requires multiple supervisory visits by a social worker, counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist, or therapist, who is required to document each visit, prior to the final agency adoption decree. The observations made during the supervisory visits shall be used in making recommendations for finalizations of agency adoptions.

Proposed law requires the families and children be provided assistance, consultation, and twenty-four hour crisis intervention through finalization.

Proposed law requires courts to report adoptions and statistical, non-identifying information to DCFS.

Proposed law requires DCFS to release a yearly report of adoption statistics within the state and adoptions that place the child out-of-state.

Present law provides that courts may render a final decree at first hearings for private adoptions if the child has lived in the petitioner's home for one year.

Proposed law shortens the length of time a child has lived in the petitioner's home to six months.

Proposed law requires multiple supervisory visits by a social worker, counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist, or therapist, who is required to document each visit, prior to the final private adoption decree. The observations made during the supervisory visits shall be used in making recommendations for finalizations of private adoptions.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 1213(A) and (B), 1233, and 1235; Adds Ch.C. Arts. 1213(D), 1217.1, and 1239.1)