

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 37

2021 Regular Session

Bacala

ADOPTION: Provides for uniform post-placement functions associated with agency adoptions and private adoptions

DIGEST

Proposed law requires multiple 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 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, nonidentifying information to DCFS including the age of the child and whether the adoptive parents are related to the child.

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 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 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)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the original bill:

1. Remove references to "supervisory visits".
2. Specify that private visits with each child shall be without the presence of the adoptive parents.
3. Change the yearly adoptive statistical requirement to include all children, not just children born in La.
4. Make technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary A to the re-engrossed bill

1. Adds to the list of nonidentifying information that is to be reported to DCFS.