

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 299

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Howell, Janet D.

3. Committee: Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title: Kinship foster care placements

5. Summary: The proposed legislation provides that the Commissioner of Social Services may grant a variance from requirements governing approval of foster homes for children if the placement is a kinship foster care placement, the requirement would impose a hardship on the kinship foster care provider, and the variance will not adversely affect the safety and well-being of the child. The bill also provides that a local board of social services or child-placing agency may approve a kinship foster care provider who has been convicted of a felony related to the possession of drugs other than felony offenses related to possession with the intent to distribute drugs, a misdemeanor conviction for arson, or an equivalent offense in another state, provided 10 years have elapsed since the date of the conviction and the local board or child-placing agency makes a specific finding that the placement would not endanger the safety or well-being of the child.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. No Fiscal Impact

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Social Services indicates that federal law and existing agency guidance allows child placing agencies to approve a kinship foster care placements with a variance so long as the health and safety of the child is not endangered. This bill would codify the current practice. Moreover, the bill's provision to broaden the pool of kinship providers by allowing certain barrier crimes is not expected to have an impact caseload or costs.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Social Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/17/12

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