



Representative

Desk

**Amendment Floor Report for HB 4- Wednesday, March 1, 2017**

Author	Analysis	Recommendation
Burkett	Changes the title of the commissioner from “executive commissioner” to “commissioner of the department.”	Favorable
Collier	<p>Financial counseling is mandated for a relative or designated caregiver living between 300% and 500% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) before being appointed as a child’s Permanent Managing Conservator (PMC).</p> <p>The court is mandated to notify any relative or designated caregiver appointed as a child’s PMC if they are no longer eligible to receive monetary assistance under Section 264.755 at each permanency hearing before a final order is rendered. The court must also make a determination about that relative or designated caregiver’s financial preparedness if they are not eligible for financial assistance under Section 264.755.</p>	Favorable
Dutton	The department shall disburse monetary assistance to caregivers that are at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level no more than 75 percent, instead of only 50 percent, of the department’s daily basic foster care rate for the child. This would raise their monthly payment from about \$347 to about \$548 and assist relative caregivers even more who choose to take in a child.	Favorable

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<b>Howard</b>	Replaces the term “family” with “kinship household” to establish that these households qualify for reimbursements based on their relation to the Federal Poverty Level. Changes the language to mandate that qualifying households receive those reimbursements.	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>Howard</b>	The relative or designated caregiver who becomes a Permanent Managing Conservator for a child is permitted to claim that child on their federal income taxes. This allows the relative or designated caregiver to receive a greater income tax return to offset the financial costs of caring for the child.	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>Keough</b>	Prohibits the department from providing monetary support to relatives or caregivers who are living in the United States without proper documentation.	<b>Unfavorable</b>
<b>Minjarez</b>	A person with a family income below or equal to 300% of the federal poverty level entering into a caregiver assistance agreement with DFPS and acquires a permanent managing conservatorship of a child before the effective date of September 1, 2017 may receive the annual reimbursement of \$500 until the third anniversary of the conservatorship or the child turns 18 years old.	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>Minjarez</b>	Establishes the time frame for disbursing assistance payments to a caregiver no later than the 60th day after initial placement of the child or sibling group. Mandates the executive commissioner and department must create a procedure to ensure that payments are processed within that timeline. Subsequent annual reimbursements must be made as soon as possible within 180 days of the child’s placement.	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>Moody</b>	Adds language mandating that monetary and support services shall be provided without regard to the race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or national origin of the caregiver or child.	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>Moody</b>	Establishes a schedule of criminal offenses for fraudulently drawing kinship payments, based on the monetary amount collected. These offenses range from a Class C misdemeanor for amounts less than \$100, up to a first-degree felony for amounts in excess of \$300,000.	<b>Favorable</b>



<b>Stickland</b>	The department shall disburse monetary assistance to caregivers that are at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level no more than 75 percent, instead of only 50 percent, of the department's daily basic foster care rate for the child. This would raise their monthly payment from about \$347 to about \$548 and assist relative caregivers even more who choose to take in a child.	<b>Favorable</b>
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