

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 56th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 727
Version:	Conference Committee Substitute
Request Number:	N/A
Author:	Ownbey
Date:	5/17/2017
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

The CCS for SB 727 requires DHS to utilize a collaborative decision-making process while conducting an investigation or assessment in response to a report of abuse or neglect of child. The purpose of the process is to assess each child's needs and whether the conditions warrant a safety intervention by the department. A determination that the process is not possible or unnecessary requires approval by the supervisor and documentation supporting the decision. If the department determines that immediate removal of the child is necessary prior to completing the investigation or assessment, the measure directs DHS to utilize the collaborative decision-making process prior to the emergency custody hearing, if feasible. The measure also:

- Modifies the findings under which the court and DHS can place siblings in separate permanent placements to include that placing the siblings together would be contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings;
- Requires the department to disseminate information about a child in its custody who becomes eligible for adoption to licensed child-placing agencies that have requested to receive such notice;
- Requires DHS to provide an annual credit report to youth in its custody beginning at age 14;
- Requires the department to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature including the number of custody children placed in non-family settings, a census of approved foster homes and number of children placed, and information regarding child welfare caseloads and salaries;
- Exempts foster parents acting in good faith from liability for property damage or injuries caused by the child or to the child when engaged in appropriate activities and the damage or injuries are a result of inherent risks associated with the activity; and
- Modifies the list of foster parent rights by including the right to be notified of family team meetings.

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Fiscal Analysis

The CCR to SB 727 has no fiscal considerations to the state.

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Other Considerations

None.

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