

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 56<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 727</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>ENGR</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep, Ownbey and Sen. Griffin</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>4/11/2017</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Research Analysis**

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:

- 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.

Prepared By: Marcia Goff

**Fiscal Analysis**

SB 727 has no fiscal considerations to the state.

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**Other Considerations**

None.

