

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 58th Legislature

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| Bill No.: | SB 1551 |
| Version: | FS |
| Request No.: | 3638 |
| Author: | Sen. Pederson |
| Date: | 02/22/2022 |

Bill Analysis

The FS for SB 1551 provides that there shall be a presumption that the Department of Human Services has not been able to find an alternative placement for a foster child if the child has remained in the same home for a period of 12 months or more and that the Department has conducted a diligent search, except when such a presumption is prohibited by federal law. The child shall remain in the placed home in such cases unless the Department is concerned about the child's well-being. If parental rights are terminated in such cases, the foster parent or parents in the foster placement shall receive priority consideration for adoption of the child. The measure also provides that foster parents must be notified of any local and statewide support groups in the annual statement provided to foster parents. The statement shall also include that such foster parents shall have the right to maintain a medical passport with all medical history of the foster child as well as the right to request all non-confidential information in Department records related to the home and the foster care services provided by the family. Foster parents are also granted the right to maintain the values and routines of the foster family while respecting the rights and confidentiality of each foster child in the home as well as the right to attend and be heard at any Department or court proceeding related to a child currently or previously placed in the home.

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