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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CHILD PROTECTIVE ACT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's child  
2 protective act, codified as chapter 587A, Hawaii Revised  
3 Statutes, can be strengthened to protect vulnerable children in  
4 the foster care system by prioritizing the total health and  
5 safety of a child. Children, especially those within the foster  
6 care system, need additional support, which can be provided by  
7 their kupuna and other extended family members. Limiting  
8 support and care access to only immediate family, the child's  
9 parents and siblings, does not adequately provide the support  
10 system that these children need.

11           The legislature also finds that it is important to identify  
12 the physical, mental, and emotional damage that can result from  
13 domestic violence and abuse these children have suffered or  
14 witnessed. Studies show that children who witness or are  
15 victims of domestic violence are more likely to suffer with  
16 long-term mental and physical health issues such as depression,



1 anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, diabetes, and heart  
2 disease.

3 The legislature further finds that strengthening the child  
4 protective act will help to ensure the well-being of vulnerable  
5 children in the foster care system is prioritized at the very  
6 top.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Clarify the purpose of the child protective act;
- 9 (2) Provide a child's grandparents with certain visitation  
10 rights;
- 11 (3) Expand safe family home factors to include evaluations  
12 conducted by a domestic violence service provider with  
13 certain specialized training;
- 14 (4) Establish time frames for written responses provided  
15 to complainants by the department of humans services;
- 16 (5) Require foster placement preference to be given to  
17 approved relatives, if it is in the best interest of  
18 the child; and
- 19 (6) Require a service plan to include an evaluation or  
20 assessment of the parents by a domestic violence



1 service provider with certain specialized training in  
2 cases of alleged or confirmed domestic violence.

3 SECTION 2. Section 587A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "[~~§~~587A-2~~§~~] **Purpose; construction.** This chapter  
6 creates within the jurisdiction of the family court a child  
7 protective act to make paramount the safety [~~and~~], health, and  
8 physical, mental, and emotional well-being of children who have  
9 been harmed or are in life circumstances that threaten harm.  
10 Furthermore, this chapter makes provisions for the service,  
11 treatment, and permanent plans for these children and their  
12 families.

13 The legislature finds that children deserve and require  
14 competent, responsible parenting and safe, secure, loving, and  
15 nurturing homes. The legislature finds that children who have  
16 been harmed or are threatened with harm are less likely than  
17 other children to realize their full educational, vocational,  
18 and emotional potential, and become law-abiding, productive,  
19 self-sufficient citizens, and are more likely to become involved  
20 with the mental health system, the juvenile justice system, or  
21 the criminal justice system, as well as become an economic



1 burden on the State. The legislature finds that prompt  
2 identification, reporting, investigation, services, treatment,  
3 adjudication, and disposition of cases involving children who  
4 have been harmed or are threatened with harm are in the  
5 children's, their families', and society's best interests  
6 because the children are defenseless, exploitable, and  
7 vulnerable. The legislature recognizes that many relatives are  
8 willing and able to provide a nurturing and safe placement for  
9 children who have been harmed or are threatened with harm.

10 The policy and purpose of this chapter is to provide  
11 children with prompt and ample protection from the harms  
12 detailed herein, with an opportunity for timely reconciliation  
13 with their families if the families can provide safe family  
14 homes, and with timely and appropriate service or permanent  
15 plans to ensure the safety of the child so they may develop and  
16 mature into responsible, self-sufficient, law-abiding citizens.  
17 The service plan shall effectuate the child's remaining in the  
18 family home, when the family home can be immediately made safe  
19 with services, or the child's returning to a safe family home.  
20 The service plan shall be carefully formulated with the family  
21 in a timely manner. Every reasonable opportunity should be



1 provided to help the child's legal custodian to succeed in  
2 remedying the problems that put the child at substantial risk of  
3 being harmed in the family home. Each appropriate resource,  
4 public and private, family and friend, should be considered and  
5 used to maximize the legal custodian's potential for providing a  
6 safe family home for the child. Full and careful consideration  
7 shall be given to the religious, cultural, and ethnic values of  
8 the child's legal custodian when service plans are being  
9 discussed and formulated. Where the court has determined, by  
10 clear and convincing evidence, that the child cannot be returned  
11 to a safe family home, the child shall be permanently placed in  
12 a timely manner.

13 The policy and purpose of this chapter includes the  
14 protection of children who have been harmed or are threatened  
15 with harm by:

- 16 (1) Providing assistance to families to address the causes  
17 for abuse and neglect;
- 18 (2) Respecting and using each family's strengths,  
19 resources, culture, and customs;



- 1 (3) Ensuring that families are meaningfully engaged and
- 2 children are consulted in an age-appropriate manner in
- 3 case planning;
- 4 (4) Enlisting the early and appropriate participation of
- 5 family and the family's support networks;
- 6 (5) Respecting and encouraging the input and views of
- 7 caregivers; and
- 8 (6) Ensuring a permanent home through timely adoption or
- 9 other permanent living arrangement, if safe
- 10 reunification with the family is not possible.

11 The child protective services under this chapter shall be  
12 provided with every reasonable effort to be open, accessible,  
13 and communicative to the persons affected by a child protective  
14 proceeding without endangering the safety and best interests of  
15 the child under this chapter.

16 This chapter shall be liberally construed to serve the best  
17 interests of the children affected and the purpose and policies  
18 set forth herein."

19 SECTION 3. Section 587A-3.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:



1           "(a) The department or an authorized agency shall ensure,  
2 whenever possible, that a child in foster care will:

3           (1) Live in a home, free from physical, psychological,  
4           sexual, and other abuse;

5           (2) Receive food, shelter, and clothing;

6           (3) Receive medical care, dental services, corrective  
7           vision care, and mental health services;

8           (4) Be enrolled in a health insurance plan and, within  
9           forty-five days of out-of-home placement, be provided  
10          with a health assessment and recommended treatment;

11          (5) Have regular, supervised or unsupervised, in-person,  
12          telephone, or other forms of contact with the child's  
13          parents, grandparents, and siblings while the child is  
14          in foster care, unless the contact is either  
15          prohibited by court order or is deemed to be unsafe by  
16          the child's child welfare services worker, therapist,  
17          guardian ad litem, or court appointed special  
18          advocate[-]; provided that visitations by grandparents  
19          may be granted only if denial of reasonable  
20          grandparent visitation rights would cause significant  
21          harm to the child. Withholding visitation shall not



1 be used as punishment. If the department or  
2 authorized agency denies supervised or unsupervised  
3 visits with the child's parents, grandparents, or  
4 siblings:

5 (A) If all parties, including the child, agree to the  
6 denial of the visits, the department or  
7 authorized agency shall submit a written report  
8 to the court within five working days to document  
9 the reasons why the visits are being denied; or

10 (B) If any party, including the child, disagrees with  
11 the denial of the visits, the department or  
12 authorized agency shall file a motion for  
13 immediate review within five working days that  
14 shall include the specific reasons why visits are  
15 being denied;

16 (6) Receive notice of court hearings, and if the child  
17 wishes to attend the hearings, the department or  
18 authorized agency shall ensure that the child is  
19 transported to the court hearings;

20 (7) Have in-person contact with the child's assigned child  
21 welfare services worker;





- 1 (8) Have the ability to exercise the child's own religious  
2 beliefs, including the refusal to attend any religious  
3 activities and services;
- 4 (9) Have a personal bank account if requested and  
5 assistance in managing the child's personal income  
6 consistent with the child's age and development,  
7 unless safety or other concerns require otherwise;
- 8 (10) Be able to participate in extracurricular, enrichment,  
9 cultural, and social activities; provided that if a  
10 child caring institution or resource caregiver  
11 authorizes the participation, the authorization shall  
12 be in accordance with the reasonable and prudent  
13 parent standard, as defined in title 42 United States  
14 Code section 675(10)(A);
- 15 (11) Beginning at age twelve, be provided with age-  
16 appropriate life skills training and a transition plan  
17 for appropriately moving out of the foster care  
18 system, which shall include reunification or other  
19 permanency, and written information concerning  
20 independent living programs, foster youth  
21 organizations, and transitional planning services that



- 1 are available to all children in foster care who are  
2 twelve years of age or older and their resource  
3 families;
- 4 (12) If the child is fourteen years of age or older, have  
5 the right to be involved in developing a case plan and  
6 planning for the child's future;
- 7 (13) If the child is fourteen years of age or older,  
8 receive the child's credit report, free of charge,  
9 annually during the child's time in foster care and  
10 receive assistance with interpreting the report and  
11 resolving inaccuracies, including, when feasible,  
12 assistance from the child's guardian ad litem; and
- 13 (14) If the child is seventeen years of age, receive prior  
14 to aging out of care certain personal records, such as  
15 an official or certified copy of the child's United  
16 States birth certificate, a Social Security card  
17 issued by the Commissioner of Social Security, health  
18 insurance information, a copy of the child's medical  
19 records or information to access the child's medical  
20 records free of charge, immigration documents, and a  
21 driver's license or civil identification card issued



1 by the State; provided that the department or  
2 authorized agency shall obtain the personal records  
3 for the child."

4 SECTION 4. Section 587A-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by amending the definition of "family" to read:

6 ""Family" means each legal parent of a child; the birth  
7 mother, unless the child has been legally adopted; the concerned  
8 birth father as provided in section 578-2(a)(5), unless the  
9 child has been legally adopted; each parent's spouse or former  
10 spouse; each grandparent; each sibling or person related by  
11 blood or marriage; each person residing in the dwelling unit;  
12 and any other person or legal entity with:

- 13 (1) Legal or physical custody or guardianship of the  
14 child, or  
15 (2) Responsibility for the child's care.

16 For purposes of this chapter, the term "family" does not apply  
17 to an authorized agency that assumes the foregoing legal status  
18 or relationship with a child."

19 SECTION 5. Section 587A-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:



1           "(a) The following factors shall be fully considered when  
2 determining whether a child's family is willing and able to  
3 provide the child with a safe family home:

4           (1) Facts relating to the child's current situation, which  
5 shall include:

6           (A) The child's age, vulnerability, and special needs  
7 that affect the child's attachment, growth, and  
8 development;

9           (B) The child's developmental, psychological,  
10 medical, and dental health status and needs,  
11 including the names of assessment and treatment  
12 providers;

13           (C) The child's peer and family relationships and  
14 bonding abilities;

15           (D) The child's educational status and setting, and  
16 the department's efforts to maintain educational  
17 stability for the child in out-of-home placement;

18           (E) The child's living situation;

19           (F) The child's fear of being in the family home;

20           (G) The impact of out-of-home placement on the child;

21           (H) Services provided to the child and family; and



- 1 (I) The department's efforts to maintain connections  
2 between the child and the child's siblings, if  
3 they are living in different homes;
- 4 (2) The initial and any subsequent reports of harm and  
5 threatened harm to the child;
- 6 (3) Dates and reasons for the child's out-of-home  
7 placement; description, appropriateness, and location  
8 of the placement; and who has placement  
9 responsibility;
- 10 (4) Facts regarding the alleged perpetrators of harm to  
11 the child, the child's parents, and other family  
12 members who are parties to the court proceedings,  
13 which facts shall include:
- 14 (A) Birthplace and family of origin;
- 15 (B) Manner in which the alleged perpetrator of harm  
16 was parented;
- 17 (C) Marital and relationship history; and
- 18 (D) Prior involvement in services;
- 19 (5) Results of psychiatric, psychological, or  
20 developmental evaluations of the child, the alleged  
21 perpetrators, and other family members who are



1            parties; provided that the evaluations under this  
2            paragraph shall be performed by a domestic violence  
3            service provider with specialized training in the  
4            treatment of the effects of physical, mental, and  
5            emotional abuse;

6            (6) Whether there is a history of abusive or assaultive  
7            conduct by the child's family members and others who  
8            have access to the family home;

9            (7) Whether there is a history of substance abuse by the  
10           child's family or others who have access to the family  
11           home;

12           (8) Whether any alleged perpetrator has completed services  
13           in relation to any history identified in paragraphs  
14           (6) and (7), and acknowledged and accepted  
15           responsibility for the harm to the child;

16           (9) Whether any non-perpetrator who resides in the family  
17           home has demonstrated an ability to protect the child  
18           from further harm and to ensure that any current  
19           protective orders are enforced;

20           (10) Whether there is a support system available to the  
21           child's family, including adoptive and hanai



1 relatives, friends, and faith-based or other community  
2 networks;  
3 (11) Attempts to locate and involve extended family,  
4 friends, and faith-based or other community networks;  
5 (12) Whether the child's family has demonstrated an  
6 understanding of and involvement in services that have  
7 been recommended by the department or court-ordered as  
8 necessary to provide a safe family home for the child;  
9 (13) Whether the child's family has resolved identified  
10 safety issues in the family home within a reasonable  
11 period of time; [~~and~~]  
12 (14) Interviews and documentation provided by family  
13 members to the department; provided that the  
14 department shall include all interviews and  
15 documentation provided by the family members in the  
16 written report filed with the court; and  
17 [~~(14)~~] (15) The department's assessment, which shall include  
18 the demonstrated ability of the child's family to  
19 provide a safe family home for the child, and  
20 recommendations."



1 SECTION 6. Section 587A-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§587A-11 Investigation; department powers.** (a) Upon  
4 receiving a report that a child is subject to imminent harm, has  
5 been harmed, or is subject to threatened harm, and when an  
6 assessment is required by this chapter, the department shall  
7 cause such investigation to be made [~~as it deems to be~~  
8 ~~appropriate~~]. In conducting the investigation, the department  
9 [~~may~~] shall:

- 10 (1) Enlist the cooperation and assistance of appropriate  
11 state and federal law enforcement authorities, who may  
12 conduct an investigation and, if an investigation is  
13 conducted, shall provide the department with all  
14 preliminary findings, including the results of a  
15 criminal history record check of an alleged  
16 perpetrator of harm or threatened harm to the child;
- 17 (2) Conduct a criminal history record check of an alleged  
18 perpetrator and all adults living in the family home,  
19 with or without consent, to ensure the safety of the  
20 child;





- 1           (3) Interview the child without the presence or prior
- 2                   approval of the child's family and temporarily assume
- 3                   protective custody of the child for the purpose of
- 4                   conducting the interview;
- 5           (4) Resolve the matter in an informal fashion that it
- 6                   deems appropriate under the circumstances;
- 7           (5) Close the matter if the department finds, after an
- 8                   assessment, that the child is residing with a
- 9                   caregiver who is willing and able to meet the child's
- 10                  needs and provide a safe and appropriate placement for
- 11                  the child;
- 12          (6) Immediately enter into a service plan:
- 13                  (A) To safely maintain the child in the family home;
- 14                          or
- 15                  (B) To place the child in voluntary foster care
- 16                          pursuant to a written agreement with the child's
- 17                          parent.
- 18           If the child is placed in voluntary foster care and
- 19                  the family does not successfully complete the service
- 20                  plan within three months after the date on which the
- 21                  department assumed physical custody of the child, the



1 department shall file a petition. The department is  
2 not required to file a petition if the parents agree  
3 to adoption or legal guardianship of the child and the  
4 child's safety is ensured; provided that the adoption  
5 or legal guardianship hearing is conducted within six  
6 months of the date on which the department assumed  
7 physical custody of the child;

8 (7) Assume temporary foster custody of the child and file  
9 a petition with the court within three days, excluding  
10 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, after the date on  
11 which the department assumes temporary foster custody  
12 of the child, with placement preference being given to  
13 an approved relative; or

14 (8) File a petition or ensure that a petition is filed by  
15 another appropriate authorized agency in court under  
16 this chapter.

17 (b) The department shall provide a written response  
18 regarding the disposition of the investigation to the  
19 complainant within forty-five days of completing the  
20 investigation; provided that any information provided under this



1 subsection shall be disclosed in a manner that safeguards the  
2 confidentiality of records as required by federal law."

3 SECTION 7. Section 587A-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

5 "(b) If an authorized agency has foster custody it has the  
6 following duties and rights:

7 (1) Determining where and with whom the child shall be  
8 placed in foster care; provided that the child shall  
9 not be placed in foster care outside the State without  
10 prior order of the court; provided further that foster  
11 placement preference shall be given to an approved  
12 relative if such preference is in the best interest of  
13 the child;

14 (2) Permitting the child to return to the family from  
15 which the child was removed, unless otherwise ordered  
16 by the court. The child's return may occur only if no  
17 party objects to such placement and prior written  
18 notice is given to the court and to all parties  
19 stating that there is no objection of any party to the  
20 child's return. Upon the child's return to the  
21 family, temporary foster custody or foster custody



- 1 shall be automatically revoked, and the child and the  
2 child's family members who are parties shall be placed  
3 under temporary family supervision or the family  
4 supervision of the authorized agency;
- 5 (3) Ensuring that the child is provided with adequate  
6 food, clothing, shelter, psychological care, physical  
7 care, medical care, supervision, and other necessities  
8 in a timely manner;
- 9 (4) Monitoring whether the child is being provided with an  
10 appropriate education;
- 11 (5) Providing required consents for the child's physical  
12 or psychological health or welfare, including ordinary  
13 medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological,  
14 educational, employment, recreational, or social  
15 needs;
- 16 (6) Providing consents for any other medical or  
17 psychological care or treatment, including surgery, if  
18 the persons who are otherwise authorized to provide  
19 consent are unable or unwilling to consent. Before  
20 being provided to the child, this care or treatment  
21 shall be deemed necessary for the child's physical or



1 psychological health or welfare by two physicians or  
2 two psychologists, as appropriate, who are licensed or  
3 authorized to practice in the State;

4 (7) Providing consent for the child's application for a  
5 driver's instructional permit, provisional driver's  
6 license, or driver's license;

7 (8) Providing consent to the recording of a statement  
8 pursuant to section 587A-21; and

9 (9) Providing the court with information concerning the  
10 child.

11 The court, in its discretion, may vest foster custody of a  
12 child in any authorized agency or subsequently authorized  
13 agencies, if the court finds that it is in the child's best  
14 interests to do so. The rights and duties that are so assumed  
15 by an authorized agency shall supersede the rights and duties of  
16 any legal or permanent custodian of the child."

17 SECTION 8. Section 587A-27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

19 "(a) The service plan shall provide:

20 (1) The specific steps necessary to facilitate the return  
21 of the child to a safe family home, if the proposed



1 placement of the child is in foster care under foster  
2 custody. These specific steps shall include treatment  
3 and services that will be provided, actions completed,  
4 specific measurable and behavioral changes that must  
5 be achieved, and responsibilities assumed;

6 (2) Whether an ohana conference will be conducted for  
7 family finding and family group decision making;

8 (3) The respective responsibilities of the child, the  
9 parents, legal guardian or custodian, the department,  
10 other family members, and treatment providers, and a  
11 description and expected outcomes of the services  
12 required to achieve the permanency goal;

13 (4) The required frequency and types of contact between  
14 the assigned social worker, the child, and the family;

15 (5) The time frames during which services will be  
16 provided, actions must be completed, and  
17 responsibilities must be discharged;

18 (6) Notice to the parents that their failure to  
19 substantially achieve the objectives described in the  
20 service plan within the time frames established may  
21 result in termination of their parental rights;



1 (7) Notice to the parents that if the child has been in  
 2 foster care under the responsibility of the department  
 3 for an aggregate of fifteen out of the most recent  
 4 twenty-two months from the child's date of entry into  
 5 foster care, the department is required to file a  
 6 motion to set a termination of parental rights  
 7 hearing, and the parents' failure to provide a safe  
 8 family home within two years from the date when the  
 9 child was first placed under foster custody by the  
 10 court, may result in the parents' parental rights  
 11 being terminated; [~~and~~]

12 (8) In cases of alleged or confirmed domestic violence, an  
 13 evaluation or assessment of the parents by a domestic  
 14 violence service provider with specialized training in  
 15 the effects of physical, mental, and emotional abuse;  
 16 and

17 [~~+8~~] (9) Any other terms and conditions that the court or  
 18 the authorized agency deem necessary to the success of  
 19 the service plan."

20 SECTION 9. Section 587A-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 21 amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:



1           "(e) If the court finds that the child's physical or  
2 psychological health or welfare has been harmed or is subject to  
3 threatened harm by the acts or omissions of the child's family,  
4 the court:

5           (1) Shall enter a finding that the court has jurisdiction  
6           pursuant to section 587A-5;

7           (2) Shall enter a finding regarding whether, before the  
8           child was placed in foster care, the department made  
9           reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need to  
10          remove the child from the child's family home;

11          (3) Shall enter orders:

12           (A) That the child be placed in foster custody if the  
13           court finds that the child's remaining in the  
14           family home is contrary to the welfare of the  
15           child and the child's parents are not willing and  
16           able to provide a safe family home for the child,  
17           even with the assistance of a service plan; or

18           (B) That the child be placed in family supervision if  
19           the court finds that the child's parents are  
20           willing and able to provide the child with a safe





1 family home with the assistance of a service  
2 plan;

3 (4) Shall determine whether aggravated circumstances are  
4 present.

5 (A) If aggravated circumstances are present, the  
6 court shall:

7 (i) Conduct a permanency hearing within thirty  
8 days, and the department shall not be  
9 required to provide the child's parents with  
10 an interim service plan or interim  
11 visitation; and

12 (ii) Order the department to file, within sixty  
13 days after the court's finding that  
14 aggravated circumstances are present, a  
15 motion to terminate parental rights unless  
16 the department has documented in the safe  
17 family home factors or other written report  
18 submitted to the court a compelling reason  
19 why it is not in the best interest of the  
20 child to file a motion[-]; and



1 (B) If aggravated circumstances are not present or  
 2 there is a compelling reason why it is not in the  
 3 best interest of the child to file a motion to  
 4 terminate parental rights, the court shall order  
 5 that the department make reasonable efforts to  
 6 reunify the child with the child's parents, so  
 7 long as first and foremost, the physical, mental,  
 8 and emotional health of the child is assured, and  
 9 order an appropriate service plan;

10 (5) Shall order reasonable supervised or unsupervised  
 11 visits for the child and the child's family, including  
 12 with the child's siblings[7] and grandparents, unless  
 13 such visits are determined to be unsafe or detrimental  
 14 to, and not in the best interests of, the child;  
 15 provided that visitations by grandparents may be  
 16 granted only if denial of reasonable grandparent  
 17 visitation rights would cause significant harm to the  
 18 child;

19 (6) Shall order each of the child's birth parents to  
 20 complete the medical information forms and release the  
 21 medical information required under section 578-14.5,



1 to the department. If the child's birth parents  
2 refuse to complete the forms or to release the  
3 information, the court may order the release of the  
4 information over the parents' objections;

5 (7) Shall determine whether each party understands that  
6 unless the family is willing and able to provide the  
7 child with a safe family home, even with the  
8 assistance of a service plan, within the reasonable  
9 period of time specified in the service plan, their  
10 respective parental and custodial duties and rights  
11 shall be subject to termination;

12 (8) Shall determine the child's date of entry into foster  
13 care as defined in this chapter;

14 (9) Shall set a periodic review hearing to be conducted no  
15 later than six months after the date of entry into  
16 foster care and a permanency hearing to be held no  
17 later than twelve months after the date of entry into  
18 foster care;

19 (10) Shall set a status conference, as the court deems  
20 appropriate, to be conducted no later than ninety days  
21 after the return hearing; and



- 1 (11) May order that:
- 2 (A) Any party participate in, complete, be liable
- 3 for, and make every good faith effort to arrange
- 4 payment for such services or treatment as are
- 5 authorized by law and that are determined to be
- 6 in the child's best interests;
- 7 (B) The child be examined by a physician, surgeon,
- 8 psychiatrist, or psychologist; and
- 9 (C) The child receive treatment, including
- 10 hospitalization or placement in other suitable
- 11 facilities, as is determined to be in the child's
- 12 best interests."

13 SECTION 10. This Act does not affect rights and duties  
14 that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that  
15 were begun before its effective date.

16 SECTION 11. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 12. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

19



**Report Title:**

Child Protective Act; Foster Care; Grandparents; Safe Family Home; Relative Placement Preference; Written Response; Service Plan; DHS

**Description:**

Clarifies the purpose of the child protective act. Allows certain contact between grandparents and a child in foster care. Includes grandparents under the definition of "family". Expands the factors to be considered when providing a child with a safe family home to include evaluations conducted by a domestic violence service provider with certain specialized training. Requires foster placement preference to be given to approved relatives, if it is in the best interest of the child. Establishes written response requirements for DHS to a complainant after child abuse or neglect investigation. Requires a service plan to include an evaluation or assessment of parents by a domestic violence service provider in cases of alleged or confirmed domestic violence. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

