

One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB177

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: February 16, 2011

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 177 is intended to assist the Department of Health and Human Services implement three specific requirements of the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008: using due diligence to notify adult relatives when a child is removed from parental custody; making efforts to place siblings together or provide for sibling time if placement together is not possible; and creating transition plans for children aging out of foster care.

The bill provides requirements for the department to notify adult relatives within 30 days of a child's removal from his or her home. Provides exception to notification if an adult relative's history of family or domestic violence makes notification inappropriate.

The bill provides requirements for the department and the court with regard to reasonable efforts to place siblings together and provide for frequent sibling time when siblings are not placed together. Provides exceptions if placement together or sibling time is contrary to the safety and well-being of any sibling.

The bill provides requirements for the department with regard to plans for transitioning out of foster care.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kathy Campbell

