

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 15, 2021
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW20
MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Vander Woude, Representatives Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Christensen, Lickley, Erickson, Ferch, Mitchell, Chew, Rubel, Davis
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Christensen
GUESTS: None

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

RS 28798: **Rep. Jason Monks**, District 22, presented **RS 28798** for juveniles in the foster care system. This legislation assures juveniles are placed into qualified residential treatment programs and are monitored to assure the programs include a plan. These juveniles have big challenges and cannot be placed into a normal foster care facility or with a relative due to safety issues. Accountability and sidebars are included for the Department of Health and Welfare to monitor progress to assure this is the best solution for these youth.

For juveniles in the foster care program who attain eighteen years of age, provision is made to remain in the program until they reach twenty-one years of age. Similar age extensions in other states have proven successful on multiple levels. The associated cost in 2020 is \$240k with a participation increase expected in 2023 to \$400k. Qualified residential treatment programs must be in federal compliance to continue the \$4M federal funds.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 28798**.

The committee invited **Emily McClure**, on behalf of a group of the foster youth who have aged out of the system, to answer a question. She said, based on data from the Legislative Services Office, the federal funding match would be slightly less than one-to-one.

Answering committee questions, **Rep. Monks** said the \$200k, first year, and \$400k, ongoing, costs cover juveniles who have aged out, chose to remain in foster care, and meet all of the requirements. If the residential treatment programs are not in compliance and federal funding is lost, the state cost would be \$6M.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 28798**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary