

REVISED

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS33091C1 / H0692

This legislation changes who is allowed in the court room during child protection hearings. Currently, the public is excluded from attending. This exclusion includes key figures who have an interest in the wellbeing of the child. A judge would need to find good cause to exclude those listed and make a written record of that finding. Those to be included: the department, parents, guardians, legal custodians, tribal representatives, assigned guardians ad litem, the assigned prosecuting attorney or deputy attorney general, elected state legislators, counsel for each of these entities.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation causes no increase or decreases in revenue, or additional expenditure of funds at the state or local level of government; therefore, this legislation has no fiscal impact.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).