

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

H.F. 2497 modifies the relative search requirements in the child protection statutes.

Section

- 1** **Relative search; nature.** Amends § 260C.212, subd. 5. (a) Requires the responsible social services agency to consider placement with a relative immediately after identifying the need for a child's placement in foster care. Requires the agency's relative search to be comprehensive in scope. Also requires the agency's relative search to include both maternal and paternal relatives of the child. Also provides that a relative's decision not to be a placement resource at the beginning of a child protection case shall not affect whether the relative is later considered for placement of the child.
- (b) Strikes language authorizing the agency to determine whether a parent's refusal to give the agency information sufficient to identify the child's maternal and paternal relatives is in the child's best interest. Instead, if a parent refuses to cooperate with the agency's relative search, the agency must ask the juvenile court to order the parent to provide the necessary information to conduct a relative search.
- (e) Provides that an agency's failure to comply with the requirements in this section regarding relative searches shall result in up to a five percent reduction in the county's state-funded children and community services grant allocation.