

HB 154 -- Placement of Grandchildren

Sponsor: Ruestman

If emergency placement of a child in a private home is deemed necessary, this bill requires the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services to make diligent efforts to contact and place the child with a grandparent unless the division determines that the placement is not in the best interest of the child. Prior to contacting the grandparent, the division must care for any physical health needs of the child; and the grandparent must comply with the emergency background check requirements. If contact with a grandparent cannot be made within three hours of the division determining an emergency placement is necessary, the child may be placed in a foster home; and during that three-hour period, the child can be placed in foster care. If placed in a foster home, the division must continue to attempt to contact the child's grandparents during the initial 24-hour period after an emergency placement was deemed necessary.

When a court determines that a child must be placed in a foster home, the division must make diligent efforts to locate the grandparents of the child and determine if they wish to be considered for placement of the child.