

HCS SB 205 -- FOSTER CHILDREN

This bill specifies that if a youth younger than 21 years old is released from the custody of the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services and after the release it appears that it would be in the youth's best interest to have his or her custody returned to the division, the juvenile officer, the division, or the youth can petition the court to return custody of the youth to the division until the youth is 21 years old. Currently, this provision applies to a child younger than 18 years old.

Beginning July 1, 2014, every child 15 years of age or older who is in the foster care system or the Division of Youth Services Program within the Department of Social Services must receive a visit to a state university or community or technical college in the child's area or visit with an armed services recruiter before being adopted or terminated by foster care or completing the division's custody or training unless the visit is waived by the youth's family support team. The visit must include an entry application process, financial support application and availability, career options with academic or technical training, a school tour, and other information and experience desired. Agencies that are providing foster care case management services for foster children can document and if requested, must receive reimbursement from the department for the costs associated with meeting the requirements of these provisions.