

HCS HB 260 -- FOSTER CHILD KINSHIP PLACEMENT

SPONSOR: Brown (94)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 7 to 2. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 2.

This bill defines the word "relative" to include a person who is not related to the child but has a close relationship with the child or child's family when determining foster home placement of a child. The bill also removes a trusted adult that has a preexisting relationship with the child from the order of preference for placement of a child.

This bill is similar to HB 2492 (2016).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that relative foster care is a large portion of the support given to children in the Missouri foster care system. By expanding the definition of who is the child's relative, children can be placed in foster homes quicker and will have a greater chance of a positive outcome.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Brown; DeAnne Almeo, Missouri Foster Care and Adoption Association; Foster Connect; and Missouri Coalition of Children Agencies.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.