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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Children and Seniors
From: Kyle Hamilton, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 18, 2019
Subject: Bill Brief on SB 162

SB 162 would require the governor and members of the legislature to be notified of missing foster care youth.

Subsection (a) would create definitions for “child in foster care” and “foster care case management contractor”.

Subsection (b) would require a contractor to notify DCF within a time period established by the DCF, not to exceed 24 hours, if the contractor knows or should have had reason to know that a foster child in the contractor’s custody has gone missing or has spent any overnight period in a facility under the control of the contractor. If a foster child is reported missing, the contractor’s notification would be required to include: (A) the age and sex of the child; (B) the location where the child went missing; (C) if a different placement was previously determined to be more appropriate for the child but was unavailable for any reason; and (D) any other information required by DCF to be included. If a foster child is reported as having spent an overnight period in a contractor’s facility, the contractor’s notification would be required to include the reasons why the child spent the overnight period in the facility. For either type of notification, DCF would add to the report which of the top five recommendations, if any, by the child welfare system task force, have been implemented or addressed by the legislature.

Subsection (c) would require DCF to notify the governor within 24 hours of receiving notice by the contractor. It would require DCF to notify each member of the legislature within 48 hours of receiving notice by the contractor. And it would require notice to be sent to the official

newspaper of the county where the child went missing or, if the county does not have an official newspaper, then a newspaper of general circulation in the county, within 48 hours of receiving notice by the contractor.

Subsection (d) would require DCF to assess a fine against a contractor for each day the contractor does not notify DCF. Money collected from such fines would be deposited into the state general fund.

Subsection (e) would give DCF authority to adopt rules and regulations to implement the requirements of the bill.

SB 162 would become effective upon publication in the statute book, on July 1, 2019.