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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 3, 2021
Subject: Bill Brief on Senate Bill 120

Senate Bill 12 establishes the joint committee on child welfare system oversight.

Senate Bill 12 creates a new section of law establishing a joint committee on child welfare system oversight. In subsection (a) committee is tasked with reviewing:

- 1) The level of oversight that the department of children and families over its contracting entities;
- 2) The duties and contributions of state agencies and service providers that provide child welfare services in the state;
- 3) The level of access to child welfare services, including mental health and community-based services;
- 4) The number of children in the child welfare system;
- 5) The licensing standards for case managers; and
- 6) Any other topic the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

Subsection (b) sets out the 11 members of the committee as follows:

- 1) 3 members of the house children and seniors committee, 2 appointed by the speaker and 1 by the minority leader;
- 2) 3 members of the senate public health and welfare committee, 2 appointed by the president and 1 appointed by the minority leader;
- 3) 2 members of the house appointed by the speaker;
- 4) 1 member of the house appointed by the minority leader; and
- 5) 1 members of the senate appointed by the senate president.

Subsection (c) lays out the terms members serve on the committee. Subsection (d) provides for what chamber the committee chairperson will be from, based upon the year.

Subsection (e) requires the committee to have their first meeting by August 1, 2021, then at least twice more per year. Subsection (f) requires the committee to submit a report to the legislature every year with recommendations to change laws, rules and regulations.

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Subsection (c) would require the department to submit a plan to the governor and the legislature before January 31, 2023 on how to reinvest the funds saved from reducing foster care caseloads due to the evidence-based and early intervention programs.