

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Kyle Baker 271-2609

SB 223-FN-A, relative to staffing recommendations from the quality assurance review of the division of children, youth and families.

Hearing Date: February 7, 2017

Time Opened: 2:15 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:30 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Bradley, Avard, Gray, Fuller Clark and Hennessey

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services, division of children, youth and families to hire additional child abuse assessment social workers and supervisors.

Sponsors:

Sen. McGilvray

Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Feltes

Sen. Fuller Clark

Sen. Hennessey

Sen. Kahn

Sen. Lasky

Sen. Soucy

Sen. Watters

Sen. Woodburn

Rep. Rosenwald

Rep. Wallner

Rep. Berrien

Who supports the bill: Senator Jeff Woodburn, SD#1; Senator Donna Soucy, SD# 18; Senator Scott McGilvray, SD# 16; Senator Dan Feltes, SD# 15; Senator Jay Kahn, SD# 10; Senator Martha Fuller Clark, SD# 21; Senator Bette Lasky, SD# 13; Jay Ward, SEA; Melissa Hinebanch; Rep. Joelle Martin, Hills 23; Rep. Polly Campion, Grafton 12; Keith Kuenning, CFS; Loreen Bartlet, DCYF

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Ryan Mahoney – Policy Director for the Senate Minority

- Introducing the bill for Senator McGilvray.
- This bill is a response to the DCYF Report.
- This bill specifically addresses an appropriation for added staff so that the new implementation of all of the new programs can begin.

- Staffing issues need to be addressed before the other issues in the department can be fixed.

Lorean Bartlet – Director of DCYF

- This bill deals directly to the assessment staff needs.
- There are currently 84 case workers that do assessment services. There is a high amount of turnover because the staff is getting burnt out.
- The reports stated that a social workers should not get more than 10 new cases a month and in NH they are doing upwards of 19 per month
- The report recommended 120 full time employees so you could have at least 90 case workers working on any day and this would reduce the vacancy rates.
- New staff would help reduce burnout.

Sen. Gray – The last time the DCYF advisory committee met there was testimony to say there was 110 workers currently working how did we get to 84 now? Is this funding in the current budget request?

Bartlet – We have been given approval from Governor and Council to bring on 17 new employees which would bring the department to 101. Cannot say if there is an appropriation in the current budget request.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

Future Action: Pending