

Amendment to HB 629-FN

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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3 AN ACT establishing a preference for the appointment of the child's grandparent as guardian
4 of the minor in certain cases and making an appropriation to the department of
5 health and human services.
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7 Amend the bill by replacing all after section 4 with the following:

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9 5 Supplemental Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services. The sum of
10 \$33,200,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 is hereby appropriated to the department of
11 health and human services, along with any available matching federal funds, for the purposes of
12 addressing estimated budget shortfalls for such fiscal year. This sum shall be in addition to any
13 other funds appropriated to the department of health and human services. The governor is
14 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in treasury not otherwise
15 appropriated.

16 6 Effective Date.

17 I. Section 5 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

18 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect January 1, 2018.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires the department of health and human service to make certain benefit eligibility information available on the department's website and to grandparents seeking guardianship of their grandchild.

II. Provides that in cases in which a parent objects to a grandparent's petition for guardianship brought as a result of the parent's substance abuse or dependence, the burden of proof shall be on the petitioner to demonstrate by a preponderance of evidence that guardianship is in the best interest of the minor.

III. Establishes a preference for the appointment of the minor's grandparent as guardian in cases in which guardianship is sought as the result of the parent's substance abuse or dependence.

IV. Provides that if a grandparent was granted guardianship as the result of the parent's substance abuse or dependence, the burden of proof in a proceeding to terminate guardianship shall be by a preponderance of the evidence and shall not shift to the guardian.

V. Makes an additional appropriation to the department of health and human services to address budget shortfalls for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.