

Bill No.: HB0011 **Effective:** 7/1/2020 12:00:00 AM
LSO No.: 20LSO-0188
Enrolled Act No.: HEA No. 0003
Chapter No.: 2
Prime Sponsor: Joint Judiciary Interim Committee
Catch Title: **Qualified residential treatment programs.**
Subject: Requiring assessments and review during qualified residential treatment placements.

Summary/Major Elements:

- The federal Family First Prevention Services Act and other federal law provide standards for qualified residential treatment programs that provide trauma informed treatment for addressing the emotional and behavioral needs of foster children. The federal law connects some federal funding to states that provide treatment programs that meet federal standards.
- The act requires qualified and trained professionals (as determined by federal law) in the Department of Family Services to conduct assessments of children who are placed in qualified residential treatment programs. The assessments consider whether a child's needs can be met through placement in a foster family home or if placement in a qualified residential treatment program is the most effective level of care in the least restrictive environment.
- The act requires the Department of Family Services to provide information to the juvenile court regarding an assessment, including the appropriateness of the placement, the specific treatment needs of the child that can be met through the placement, the anticipated length of the placement and the steps the Department is taking to prepare the child to return home or be placed for adoption.
- The act also requires the juvenile court to review a child's placement within sixty (60) days of placement by reviewing the assessment and determining whether the placement in the qualified residential treatment program is the most effective level of care in the least restrictive environment while being consistent with the short-term and long-term goals of the child. The juvenile court must approve or disapprove of the placement.

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