

**Second Regular Session
Sixty-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R02-0064.01 Beth Braby

HJR02-1058

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-1058

101 **CONCERNING NOTIFICATION TO RELATIVES OF A CHILD WHO HAS BEEN**
102 **REMOVED FROM THE HOME DUE TO AN ALLEGATION OF**
103 **DEPENDENCY OR NEGLECT.**

1 WHEREAS, The removal of a child from the home of his or her
2 parent or legal guardian by the county department of social services due
3 to an allegation of dependency or neglect is a traumatic, life-altering
4 event for the child; and

5 WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of such a child to provide
6 stability as soon as possible thereafter; and

7 WHEREAS, Placement of such a child with an appropriate,
8 capable, willing, and available relative is often the best possible
9 placement option to provide stability and to reduce the trauma
10 experienced by the child as a result of being removed from his or her
11 home; and

12 WHEREAS, At the time of placing such a child in the temporary
13 custody of the county department of social services, state law requires the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 court to advise the child's parent or legal guardian that the child may be
2 placed with the child's grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, or sister and
3 requires the court to order the parent or legal guardian to provide the
4 names, addresses, and telephone numbers of any such relatives; and

5 WHEREAS, State law does not require, but merely allows, the
6 court to order the county department of social services to make
7 "reasonable and timely efforts" to contact such identified relatives about
8 placement possibilities for a such a child; and

9 WHEREAS, Notifying such relatives that the child has been
10 removed from the home of his or her parent or legal guardian and
11 determining whether there are appropriate, capable, willing, and available
12 relatives with whom to place the child is critical to the stability and
13 welfare of such a child; and

14 WHEREAS, Finding appropriate, capable, willing, and available
15 relatives and placing a child who has been removed from the home of his
16 or her parent or legal guardian with such relatives as soon as feasibly
17 possible after removal of the child from his or her home is also critical to
18 whether the child may be permanently placed with such relatives if,
19 ultimately, there is a termination of the parent-child legal relationship;
20 now, therefore,

21 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third*
22 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*
23 *herein:*

24 That, because notification to relatives in order to determine if there
25 are appropriate, capable, willing, and available relatives with whom to
26 place a child who has been removed from the home of his or her parent
27 or legal guardian is critical to the stability, welfare, and long-term
28 placement of such a child, all county departments of social services are
29 strongly encouraged to embrace the spirit of the law and the best interests
30 of the child and to contact such identified relatives immediately after their
31 names have been provided by the parent or legal guardian.

32 *Be It Further Resolved,* That a copy of this Joint Resolution be
33 sent to each county department of social services in the state of Colorado
34 and to the Colorado Department of Human Services, and that the copy be
35 displayed in an appropriate location in each facility or office.