

**UPDATED SUMMARY
HOUSE BILL 15-1337**

First Regular Session - Seventieth Colorado General Assembly

This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house. It does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. This summary reflects only the main points of the legislation.

The bill adds a legislative declaration to the "Colorado Children's Code" regarding the impact upon children of multiples moves while in foster care and the importance of children having stable placements with a primary caregiver and with siblings. The legislative declaration declares that multiple moves for children in the dependency and neglect system should be discouraged in favor of permanent planning upon which these children can rely for their healthy mental, physical, and emotional development.

Under current law, after the parent-child legal relationship has been terminated, the court shall consider, but is not bound by, a request that guardianship and legal custody of the child be placed with relatives. In addition, there is presumption that joint placement of siblings is in the best interests of the children. Under current law, when the court approves a placement decision relating to the placement of a child with relatives or placement with siblings that will result in the child being moved to a different placement, the court may consider different factors specified in the statute. The bill mandates that the court consider all of the statutory factors in making such placement determinations.

Under current law, the court holds permanency hearings and periodic reviews when a child is in foster care and remains in out-of-home placement. Current law states that the court may consider different factors specified in statute in modifying a child's placement. The bill mandates that the court consider all of the statutory factors related to modifying the placement of a child prior to removing the child from his or her placement.