

Second Regular Session
Sixty-sixth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 08-0596.01 Richard Sweetman

HOUSE BILL 08-1006

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Jahn,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sandoval,

House Committees

Health and Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING VISITS BY CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE WITH THEIR**
102 **SIBLINGS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

Requires a county department of social services ("county department") to arrange for a visit between a child in foster care and his or her sibling within a reasonable amount of time if the child and his or her sibling express a mutual desire to visit with each other. Allows the county department to deny the request if it determines the visit would not be in the best interests of the child or his or her sibling. Allows the state board of human services to promulgate rules establishing procedures by

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.*

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unam ended
January 16, 2008

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unam ended
January 15, 2008

which a foster home shall arrange for one or more visits.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** Part 1 of article 1 of title 19, Colorado Revised
3 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to
4 read:

5 **19-1-128. Foster care sibling visits - rules.** (1) IF A CHILD IN
6 FOSTER CARE AND HIS OR HER SIBLING MUTUALLY REQUEST AN
7 OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT EACH OTHER, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT THAT HAS
8 LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE CHILD SHALL ARRANGE FOR THE VISIT WITHIN A
9 REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AND DOCUMENT THE VISIT.

10 (2) IF A CHILD IN FOSTER CARE AND HIS OR HER SIBLING MUTUALLY
11 REQUEST AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT EACH OTHER ON A REGULAR BASIS,
12 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT THAT HAS LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE CHILD
13 SHALL ARRANGE FOR THE VISITS AND ENSURE THAT THE VISITS OCCUR
14 WITH SUFFICIENT FREQUENCY AND DURATION TO PROMOTE CONTINUITY IN
15 THE SIBLINGS' RELATIONSHIP.

16 (3) IF, IN ARRANGING SIBLING VISITS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION,
17 A COUNTY DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT A REQUESTED VISIT BETWEEN
18 THE SIBLINGS WOULD NOT BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ONE OR BOTH OF
19 THE SIBLINGS, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL DENY THE REQUEST AND
20 DOCUMENT ITS REASONS FOR MAKING THE DETERMINATION.

21 (4) THE STATE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES, CREATED IN SECTION
22 26-1-107, C.R.S., MAY PROMULGATE RULES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
23 THIS SECTION.

24 **SECTION 2. Effective date.** This act shall take effect at 12:01
25 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after

1 final adjournment of the general assembly that is allowed for submitting
2 a referendum petition pursuant to article V, section 1 (3) of the state
3 constitution, (August 6, 2008, if adjournment sine die is on May 7, 2008);
4 except that, if a referendum petition is filed against this act or an item,
5 section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section,
6 or part, if approved by the people, shall take effect on the date of the
7 official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor.