

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chair of Committee

March 4, 2026
Date

Committee on Health & Human Services.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB26-1227 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, page 3, strike lines 1 through 3 and substitute "AD
2 LITEM OR COUNSEL FOR YOUTH, OBJECTS TO THE DISMISSAL, A HEARING
3 MUST BE HELD BEFORE A JUDICIAL OFFICER TO DETERMINE, BY A
4 PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE, WHETHER THE CHILD OR YOUTH IS
5 DEPENDENT OR NEGLECTED, UNLESS".

6 Page 3, strike lines 24 through 26.

7 Strike page 4 and substitute:

8 **"SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
9 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
10 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
11 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
12 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
13 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
14 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
15 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
16 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
17 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor."

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