

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chair of Committee

April 17, 2026
Date

Committee on Appropriations.

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 of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

1 Strike the Health and Human Services Committee Report, dated March
2 4, 2026, and substitute:

3 "Amend printed bill, page 2, strike lines 17 through 20.

4 Page 3, strike lines 1 through 8 and substitute:

5 "(4.7) (a) IF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN OR SOCIAL
6 SERVICES SEEKS DISMISSAL OF A PETITION FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION
7 19-3-501 PRIOR TO THE ADJUDICATORY HEARING HELD PURSUANT TO
8 SECTION 19-3-505, AND THE CHILD OR YOUTH, THROUGH THE CHILD'S OR
9 YOUTH'S GUARDIAN AD LITEM OR COUNSEL FOR YOUTH, OBJECTS TO THE
10 DISMISSAL AND ARTICULATES THAT THE CHILD IS ABUSED OR NEGLECTED
11 PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-1-103 (1)(a), THE COURT SHALL SET A HEARING
12 TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN OR
13 SOCIAL SERVICES HAS A REASONABLE BASIS TO DISMISS THE CASE. THE
14 COURT MAY HEAR FROM THE PARTIES REGARDING THE APPROPRIATENESS
15 OF THE DISMISSAL, BUT IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN OR SOCIAL
16 SERVICES DOES NOT SHOW REASONABLE BASIS TO DISMISS THE CASE, THE
17 COURT MUST ALLOW THE CASE TO PROCEED.

18 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (4.7) DOES NOT AUTHORIZE A CHILD OR
19 YOUTH TO FILE A PETITION ON THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S BEHALF.

20 (c) THIS SUBSECTION (4.7) DOES NOT LIMIT A PARENT'S RIGHT TO
21 DEMAND A JURY TRIAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-3-202."

22 Page 3, strike lines 24 through 26.

23 Strike page 4 and substitute:

1 **"SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
4 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
5 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
6 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
7 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
8 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor."."

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