

Testimony
Engrossed Senate Bill 2063 - Department of Human Services
House Human Services
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
March 4, 2015

Chairman Weisz, and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Julie Hoffman, Adoptions Administrator for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today in support of Engrossed Senate Bill 2063 which was introduced at the request of the Department.

This bill amends North Dakota Century Code Section 27-20-45, the Uniform Juvenile Court Act, regarding proceedings for termination of parental rights. The proposed changes on page 2, lines 19 through 21, would require the clerk of district court or juvenile court to provide a copy of the petition and summons to the Department at least 10 days prior to a hearing on the petition. Since most children subject to termination of parental rights under this section will be placed in the custody of the Department, we believe receiving a copy of the petition and summons prior to the hearing is warranted. The Department receives notice of adoption petitions under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 14-15, so the proposed change also would be consistent with existing provisions in another statute.

The Department recommends passage of Engrossed Senate Bill 2063. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.