

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION: Directs the secretaries of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) jointly to study the consolidation of the two departments into one department and to present a report to the legislature.

DIGEST

Proposed resolution directs DHH and DCFS secretaries jointly to study the consolidation of the two departments into one department and to present a report to various committees of the legislature. Provides that the study's purposes are promoting economy and efficiency in the operation and management of state health and social services functions, strengthening the executive capacity of the new department for effective, efficient, and economic administration while improving the quality of the functions performed and the programs and services rendered, and eliminating to the fullest practicable extent duplication of effort within state health and social services functions.

Proposed resolution provides that the two secretaries shall conduct a comprehensive study of the organization and operations of the two departments, including merger of functions, abolition of agencies, consolidation of offices, elimination of job positions, elimination of duplication of functions, full implementation of an office of management and finance and consolidation of its functions, and efficiency and economy in delivery of services.

Proposed resolution provides that the study shall include:

- (1) A study of the organizational structures and the assignment of the powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, and programs of the two departments within the new department and a review of the opportunities where improved and efficient operation and management of the state's health and social services programs and functions.
- (2) A report of the findings of the secretaries' comprehensive study and examination of the organization and operations of the two departments and any other explanatory material the secretaries determine necessary to explain the plan.

Proposed resolution provides that the secretaries shall complete such study and submit it to the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House Committee on Health and Welfare, not later than Dec. 31, 2011, and submit copies thereof to the governor and to the commissioner of administration.

Proposed resolution provides that the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House Committee on Health and Welfare, individually or jointly, may conduct such hearings as they deem appropriate to review the study and material submitted and that the secretaries shall furnish the committees any information they may request concerning reorganization of the departments and, at the request of any of the committees, appear before them to provide requested information.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

1. Removes provisions which required DCFS and DHH prepare a plan for abolition of the two departments and the creation of a new consolidated Dept. of Children, Family, and Health Services.