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LRB100 12309 MST 24910 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The 1909 White House Conference on Dependent
3 Children stated that every child deserves a stable and lasting
4 family life and should not be deprived of it except for urgent
5 and compelling reasons; and

6 WHEREAS, Once the decision is made to remove children from
7 their homes, the Department of Children and Family Services has
8 a responsibility and duty to provide them with substitute
9 living arrangements that ensure that they are safe from
10 additional harm and provide stability; and

11 WHEREAS, When children are removed from their homes and
12 then experience placement disruption, it can lead them to
13 experience profound distress, a sense of loss, and feelings of
14 not belonging - all of which can lead to distrust and fear of
15 forming secure and healthy relationships; and

16 WHEREAS, Children experiencing instability also have a
17 high rate of additional placement disruption, have greater
18 difficulty finding permanent homes, and experience poorer
19 adult outcomes; and

20 WHEREAS, Evidence links multiple placements with
21 behavioral and mental health problems, educational

1 difficulties, and juvenile delinquency; and

2 WHEREAS, Children need continuity, consistency, and
3 predictability from their caregivers; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2014, 20.7% of children entering substitute
5 care had at least three different placements in their first
6 year; and

7 WHEREAS, Youth who experience minimized placement changes
8 are more likely to experience fewer school changes, less trauma
9 and distress, less mental health and behavioral problems,
10 increased probabilities for academic achievement, and
11 experiencing a lasting positive relationship with an adult;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Department
15 of Children and Family Services to develop a plan, in
16 collaboration with the private agencies that serve the majority
17 of youth in care, to create a review system for any child in
18 its care when he or she enters his or her third placement; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Department of Children and Family
21 Services shall submit a report no later than December 31, 2017

1 with its recommendations to the General Assembly on how this
2 system should be developed and implemented.