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1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 140

2 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services is
3 required by the Children and Family Services Act (20 ILCS
4 505/7) to place children in its care in safe and adequate
5 placements consistent with each child's health, safety and best
6 interests; and

7 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services has
8 adopted rules, entitled "Placement Selection Criteria", (89
9 Ill. Adm. Code Part 301.60) that provide that "all placement
10 decisions will be made consistent with the safety, best
11 interests and special needs of the child" and that
12 consideration shall be given to "the least restrictive setting
13 appropriate for the child which most closely approximates a
14 family"; and

15 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services has
16 adopted procedures, entitled "Psychiatric Hospitalization,
17 Basic Premises Regarding Psychiatric Hospitalization" (DCFS
18 Procedures 301.110(b)), that provide that "a psychiatric
19 hospitalization is not a placement" and that "discharge and
20 placement planning shall begin from the moment of admission";
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services is

1 the party to a federal court consent decree (B.H. et al., 88 C
2 5599, N.D. ILL) that provides that emergency shelter placements
3 "shall be limited to 30 days"; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is
6 directed to conduct a performance audit of the Department of
7 Children and Family Services' compliance with its obligations
8 to place children in its care in placements consistent with
9 their best interests; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the audit include, but not be limited to,
11 the following determinations as they pertain to children (up to
12 the age of 21) in the care of the Department of Children and
13 Family Services in calendar years 2014 and 2015:

14 (1) The number of children who remain psychiatrically
15 hospitalized beyond the time when they are clinically ready
16 for discharge or beyond medical necessity for
17 hospitalization, whichever is sooner, the reason they
18 remain hospitalized, the length of time they remain
19 hospitalized, the type of recommended placement, the
20 barriers to timely placement, and whether they were placed
21 in the recommended placement type after leaving the
22 hospital;

1 (2) The number of children who remain in emergency
2 shelters beyond 30 days, the reason they remain in an
3 emergency shelter, the length of time they remain in an
4 emergency shelter, the type of recommended placement, the
5 barriers to timely placement, and whether they were placed
6 in the recommended placement type after they were moved
7 from the shelter;

8 (3) The number of children who remain in a detention
9 center or Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facility
10 solely because the Department cannot locate a placement for
11 the child, the length of time they remain in a detention
12 center or DJJ facility, the type of recommended placement,
13 the barriers to timely placement, and whether they were
14 placed in the recommended placement type after being
15 released from detention or from the DJJ facility; and

16 (4) For each child meeting the criteria in subsection
17 (1), (2), or (3) the following information: who was
18 subsequently placed, how long it took the child to be
19 placed, and whether the child was placed consistent with
20 clinical recommendations; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Department of Children and Family
22 Services shall cooperate fully and promptly with the Auditor
23 General's Office in conducting this audit; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence this audit as
3 soon as possible and distribute the report upon completion in
4 accordance with Section 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing
5 Act.