

April 18, 2023

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2080**

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on pages 1541-1543 of the Senate Journal and pages 1701-1703 of the House Journal and that Senate Bill No. 2080 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 5 of section 14-15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to an investigation of a petitioner for adoption; and to provide for a legislative management study.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 5 of section 14-15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

5. An investigation and report is not required in cases in which a stepparent is the petitioner or the individual to be adopted is an adult. The department and human service zone, when required to consent to the adoption, may give consent without making the investigation. If the petitioner is a court-appointed legal guardian or a relative other than a stepparent of the minor, the minor has lived with the petitioner for at least nine months, no allegations of abuse or neglect have been filed against the petitioner or any member of the petitioner's household, and the court is satisfied that the proposed adoptive home is appropriate for the minor, the court may waive the investigation and report required under this section.

**SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - CHILD WELFARE ISSUES.**

1. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the laws and practices of the child welfare system. The study must include a review of the:
  - a. Implementation of the revisions in juvenile court procedures and the new model of practice;
  - b. Laws, administrative rules, and practices of the foster care and adoption systems;
  - c. The timeliness of termination of parental rights;
  - d. The timeliness of permanency; and
  - e. Availability of resources to support children and families experiencing out-of-home placement or risk of out-of-home placement.
2. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly."