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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Barker
Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: Jason B. Long, Senior Assistant Revisor

Date: February 14, 2018

Subject: HB 2587 – Reports involving a child with problem sexual behavior.

House Bill No. 2587 (HB 2587) would create new law that would require the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to take certain steps when there is a report of child abuse or neglect and the subject of the report is a child with problem sexual behavior. The bill defines "child with problem sexual behavior" as a child under the age of 14 who has allegedly committed sexual abuse against another child.

Upon receiving such a report, DCF is to: (1) Assess any service needs of the family of the child; (2) provide services to the child and the family; and (3) document when the case is closed, the outcome for the family, any service provided, and the removal of the risk to the child. Services provided under this new law are to be voluntary on the part of the family unless DCF determines there is a high risk of abuse or neglect if the family refuses the services. DCF may commence with an investigation and further action if the family refuses the voluntary services.

If enacted, HB 2587 would become effective on July 1, 2018.