

HB 259 -- Disclosure of Certain Foster Care Licensure Information

Sponsor: Cox

This bill changes the laws regarding the disclosure of certain foster care licensure information. A public governmental body is authorized to close meetings and records and votes if they relate to personal information obtained in the process of licensing a foster home. The Division of Family Services within the Department of Social Services must make a report available for each foster home that is licensed and for each foster home renewing an existing license which includes:

- (1) The names of all persons 18 years of age or older licensed to operate the foster home;
- (2) A description of the background investigation conducted on all persons operating or maintaining the foster home including certain specified documentation;
- (3) A description of all concerns raised during the background investigation and foster home licensure process and how those concerns were resolved;
- (4) A description of the character traits of each person and how those traits assist or hinder the person in operating or maintaining a foster home; and
- (5) A list of all references provided by each person, stating the reference's name, how and when the reference was contacted, and a brief description of the reference's opinion of the person.

The report must not contain the address of any residence or any personal information not otherwise required which could be used by another to threaten, harm, harass, or embarrass any person.