COMMITTEE REPORT

April 20, 2016

**H. 4510**

Introduced by Reps. Thayer, Hosey, Nanney, Hamilton, Erickson, Long, Hicks, McCoy, McEachern and Bedingfield

S. Printed 4/20/16--S.

Read the first time March 10, 2016.

**THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 4510) to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 63-7-2400 so as to establish limitations on the number of foster children who may, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 7, Title 63 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 63‑7‑2400. (A) A foster home may not provide full‑time care for more than five foster children, with the total number of children residing in the household not to exceed eight, including the foster parent’s own children, children of other household members, and other children residing in the household, except:

(1) to keep a sibling group together;

(2) to keep a child in the child’s home community;

(3) to return a child to a home in which the child was previously placed;

(4) to comply with an order of the court; or

(5) if it is in the best interest of the children as determined by the court.

(B) No more than two of the five foster children referenced in subsection (A) may be classified as therapeutic foster care placement unless one of the exceptions in subsection (A) apply. If one of the exceptions apply, no more than three of the five foster children may be classified as therapeutic foster care placement.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor. Section 63-7-2400 (B) of Article 5, Title 7 does not apply to foster children placed before the effective date of this act. /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

TOM YOUNG JR. for Committee.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

**Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill as amended would have no expenditure impact to the general fund, federal funds, or other funds.

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Explanation of Bill as Amended by the House of Representatives on March 8, 2016**

**State Expenditure**

This bill would add Section 63-7-2400, which establishes limitations on the number of foster children who may be placed in a foster home.

The Department of Social Services indicates this bill would have no impact to the general fund, federal funds, or other funds.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 63-7-2400 SO AS TO ESTABLISH LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF FOSTER CHILDREN WHO MAY BE PLACED IN A FOSTER HOME.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 7, Title 63 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 63‑7‑2400. A foster home may not provide full‑time care for more than five children, excluding the foster parents’ own children and other children who are household members, with a maximum of eight children, except:

(1) to keep a sibling group together;

(2) to keep a child in the child’s home community;

(3) to return a child to a home in which the child was previously placed;

(4) to comply with an order of the court; or

(5) if it is in the best interest of the children as determined by the court or the department.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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