

**Date:** February 17, 2022

**Bill number:** HB0764

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Bill title:** Department of Human Services - Missing Individuals - Reporting

**DHS Position:** Support with Amendments

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The Department respectfully submits this letter of support, with amendments regarding House Bill 764 (HB 764). HB 764 specifies what information should be provided to law enforcement when a child in an out of home placement with the Department runs away, or is absent without leave (AWOL).

The Department recommends the following amendments to clarify and strengthen the bill:

1. All references to a missing “individual under a guardianship” should be changed to “child,” meaning a child in an out of home placement as defined in Family Law §5-501.
2. Page 1, line 17, should read “immediately, and in no case later than 24 hours after a discovery that...” to conform to the language of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act which provides guidance on communications to law enforcement regarding missing children.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these amendments to the committee, and once adopted, requests a favorable report.

