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As of: June 22, 2012 (1:54pm)

LCCF05

**** Bill No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services
Interim Committee

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act requiring the department of public health and human services to undertake the process of accreditation for child and family services; providing an appropriation; requiring an annual report; providing rulemaking authority; and providing an immediate effective date."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Accreditation of child and family services -- purpose and intent.** (1) The legislature finds that accreditation by a national independent entity of child and family services provided by the department could substantially improve the quality of services provided to children and families.

(2) Accreditation involves an ongoing commitment by the state of Montana to meeting nationally recognized standards of practice in providing child welfare services and holds the state accountable for achieving improved outcomes for children.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Accreditation of child and family services.** (1) The department shall undertake the process of accreditation with a national independent accreditation entity

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for child and family services that it provides.

(2) The department shall, in conjunction with a national independent accreditation entity, provide a report to the legislature and the office of the governor beginning December 31, 2013. The report must:

(a) be provided annually during each year that accreditation is being pursued; and

(b) provide details regarding:

(i) staffing requirements, a timetable for achieving those requirements, projected budgets for achieving those requirements, and any other costs associated with achieving accreditation;

(ii) impediments and the department's corresponding solutions to those impediments; and

(iii) observed and anticipated progress toward accreditation standards that is tied to specific accountability measures and timeframes.

(3) If the department attains accreditation, then it shall renew the accreditation at the intervals required by the national independent accreditation entity.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated from the general fund to the department of public health and human services \$_____ for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013.

(2) The appropriation must be used to pay for purposes established in [section 2].

(3) Money unexpended by June 30, 2015, reverts to the

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general fund as provided in 17-7-304.

NEW SECTION. **Section 4. {standard} Codification**

instruction. [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 52, chapter 2, part 1, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 2, part 1, apply to [sections 1 and 2].

NEW SECTION. **Section 5. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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