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HR-75 (2021-2022)

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REVISED SEPTEMBER 07, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2021–2022 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE RESOLUTION

NO. 75

Introduced by Assembly Member Patterson

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bennett, Berman, Bigelow, Boerner Horvath, Mia Bonta, Bryan, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chen, Chiu, Choi, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Megan Dahle, Davies, Flora, Fong, Frazier, Friedman, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kiley, Lackey, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Smith, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Villapudua, Voepel, Waldron, Ward, Akilah Weber, Wicks, and Wood)

September 02, 2021

Relative to Court Adoption and Permanency Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

HR 75, as introduced, Patterson.

WHEREAS, Consistent with its commitment to support practices and procedures that promote access to justice and improved case outcomes for California's children and families, the Judicial Council has recognized November as Court Adoption and Permanency Month every year since 1999; and

WHEREAS, 434,645 incidents of child abuse and neglect were reported in the 2019–20 fiscal year and 20,111 children entered child welfare-supervised foster care for the first time in California, a 10-percent reduction in entries compared to 10 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Some 60,000 children in California continue to live apart from their families in child welfare-supervised out-of-home care, and over 40 percent of the children in foster care in California still live apart from their families for two or more years; and

WHEREAS, Despite the disruptions to court operations and safety emergencies created by the COVID-19 pandemic, California courts still achieved permanency for over 20,000 children via reunification, adoption, and dismissal of jurisdiction to guardianships

during the 2019–20 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, The percentage of foster children who exit foster care through adoption is 23 percent, and over 5,600 adoptions from foster care were finalized in 2020 despite the pandemic disruptions; and

WHEREAS, Over 2,460 foster children were in group homes or shelters in July 2020 rather than with relatives or in home-like settings, a decrease of 35 percent compared to July 2010; and

WHEREAS, While progress has been made, much work still needs to be done to improve the lives of children and families in the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, Local courts and communities throughout California have created programs promoting permanency that have resulted in a reduction in the number of children waiting to live in safe, stable, and permanent homes; and

WHEREAS, The Judicial Council remains committed to working with the Governor, the Legislature, and local courts and communities to ensure that every abused or neglected child finds a safe, stable, and permanent home with a loving family as quickly as possible; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the Assembly declares November 2021 as Court Adoption and Permanency Month, and encourages the courts and their communities to join in activities to promote permanency; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

REVISIONS:

Heading—Line 2.