

Amendment to SB 385

1 Amend section 1 of the bill by replacing paragraph I with the following:

2  
3 I. The rights and privileges enumerated in this act are intended to guide department of  
4 health and human services staff, foster parents, and providers in the delivery of care and services to  
5 youth in out-of-home placement with a commitment to permanency, safety and well-being. These  
6 rights and privileges provide youth with a “voice” to be taken into consideration when decisions are  
7 made by the courts, department staff, and providers. They are designed to ensure opportunities for  
8 age appropriate involvement in “normal” life experiences.

9  
10 Amend RSA 170-G:20 as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

11  
12 170-G:20 Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard. The rights of children in foster care exist  
13 within the context of the reasonable and prudent parent standard defined in 42 U.S.C. section  
14 675(10). This means that foster parents, caretakers, and department staff must make careful and  
15 sensible decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at the same  
16 time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child. The rights and privileges  
17 established in this section are to be applied in accordance with the reasonable and prudent parent  
18 standard, in a context appropriate to the age and developmental level of the child, and in  
19 recognition of the fact that some of these privileges may need to be earned.

20  
21 Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 170-G:21 as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing  
22 it with the following:

23  
24 170-G:21 Foster Care Children's Bill of Rights. A child who is placed in a foster home or other  
25 out-of-home placement pursuant to a juvenile court proceeding under RSA 169-B, RSA 169-C, or  
26 RSA 169-D shall have the right or privilege:

27  
28 Amend RSA 170-G:21, IV as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

29  
30 IV. To develop a group of supportive adults, which may, when appropriate, include  
31 department staff, foster parents, residential staff, therapists, and other individuals with  
32 responsibility for case planning.

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**- Page 2 -**

1

2 Amend RSA 170-G:21, VIII as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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4       VIII. To receive timely information about decisions that affect the child's life and to be  
5 notified of changes that affect his or her case plan, treatment plan, permanency, safety, stability, or  
6 wellbeing, and to have his or her voice considered in these decisions.