



**SENATE AMENDMENT 1,  
TO SENATE BILL 504**

February 12, 2014 – Offered by Senator HARRIS.

1           At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

2           **1.** Page 3, line 7: after “excuse.” insert “If the court finds that a parent’s  
3           conduct in failing to appear in person as ordered was egregious and without clear and  
4           justifiable excuse, the court may not hold a dispositional hearing on the contested  
5           adoption or involuntary termination of parental rights until at least 10 days have  
6           elapsed since the date of that finding. At the conclusion of the dispositional hearing,  
7           the court may discharge counsel based on the presumption described in this  
8           subdivision and grant a default judgment approving the contested adoption or  
9           involuntary termination of parental rights. If a default judgment is granted, the  
10          parent may move the court to vacate or reconsider the default judgment as provided  
11          in s. 806.07 or appeal the default judgment under s. 808.03 (1).”.

12          **2.** Page 3, line 8: delete lines 8 to 12 and substitute:

13          “**SECTION 5m.** 48.424 (4) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

1           48.424 (4) (intro.) If grounds for the termination of parental rights are found  
2 by the court or jury, the court shall find the parent unfit. A finding of unfitness shall  
3 not preclude a dismissal of a petition under s. 48.427 (2). ~~The~~ Except as provided in  
4 s. 48.23 (2) (b) 3., the court shall then proceed immediately to hear evidence and  
5 motions related to the dispositions enumerated in s. 48.427. Except as provided in  
6 s. 48.42 (2g) (ag), the court may delay making the disposition and set a date for a  
7 dispositional hearing no later than 45 days after the fact-finding hearing if any of  
8 the following apply:”.

9

(END)