

S.75 - An Act Further Regulating the Placement of Certain Children

5.10.07 – Floor Speech

Senate 75 is identical to legislation that we passed at the end of last year's session. Unfortunately it was one of the bills pocket vetoed by then Governor Romney.

It represents a much needed clarification to our adoption laws and I thank you Madame President for recognizing the importance of this legislation and making this a priority this session.

S.75 would clarify that only *non-profits entitie* may be licensed as adoption placement agencies. This clarification is necessary due to an unintended change made in a provision of the Economic Development Act of 2006. A provision of that bill provided the opportunity for foster care to be run by well respected **for-profit** companies. However the language authorizing for-profits companies to engage foster care placements inadvertently included adoption agencies.

Because of that change - currently adoptions may be conducted by for-profit corporations. There is a large distinction between foster care and adoption. We did not intend for this to happen and it is now incumbent upon us to correct that mistake.

S.75 is the same language that this body unanimously supported last session. It is critical that we support this bill and protect the integrity of the adoption process and ensure that entities involved with adoption placements are motivated only by the best interests of the child and the families involved in the process and not by any financial interest..