



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB16-205

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-1267
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Lambert
Rep. Hamner

Date: August 23, 2016
Bill Status: Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

BILL TOPIC: EXPENSES OF INDIGENT PARENTS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	No net change. See State Expenditures section.	
Appropriation Required:	None.	
Future Year Impacts:	See State Expenditures section.	

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Office of the State Court Administrator receives funding to pay for an indigent parent to retain one expert witness and to obtain a transcript of the trial during a parent-child termination proceeding. Given that responsibility for retaining counsel for indigent parents in such cases is now managed by the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel (ORPC), this bill clarifies that funding for these expenses are to be appropriated to the ORPC.

Background

Respondent parents' counsel are appointed by the court to represent indigent parents involved in dependency and neglect cases. Senate Bill 14-203 led to the creation of the ORPC as an independent judicial agency to manage the appointment of respondent parents' counsel. The ORPC began work on January 1, 2016, and will assume responsibility for payment of respondent parents' counsel on July 1, 2016.

State Expenditures

By clarifying current law regarding authority of payment for certain respondent parent expenses, the bill reduces costs in the Office of the State Court Administrator and increases costs in the ORPC by an identical amount, resulting in no net change in state spending. Current appropriations to the Office of the State Court Administrator and the ORPC in the FY 2016-17 Long Bill currently reflect spending for these expenses as occurring in the ORPC. Therefore, no adjustment in appropriations is required.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 6, 2016, and became effective on July 1, 2016.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial