



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1224

**REVISED
FISCAL NOTE**

(replaces fiscal note dated February 19, 2016)

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

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0946
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Lundeen
Sen. Woods

Date: March 23, 2016
Bill Status: Senate Judiciary
Fiscal Analyst: Amanda Hayden (303-866-4918)

BILL TOPIC: TREAT TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN AS CHILD ABUSE

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Workload increase.	
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing workload increase.		

Summary of Legislation

The *reengrossed* bill adds human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude or commercial sexual exploitation of a child to the definition of "abuse" or "child abuse or neglect" for dependency and neglect cases. It requires county departments of human or social services, when necessary and appropriate, to offer services immediately to any child reported to be a victim of sexual trafficking or sexual exploitation and allows county departments to file a petition in juvenile court on behalf of the child. County departments must inform local law enforcement if investigators believe the child or other children have been victims of trafficking, and in these cases county departments may place the child or children in protective custody. Finally, the bill requires the Department of Human Services and county departments to implement a uniform screening tool for identifying children who are victims, or are at risk of becoming victims, of sexual trafficking or sexual exploitation.

Background

Under current law, county departments respond to reports of child abuse and neglect within families and may provide services to promote the well being and safety of the child. Law enforcement may respond to reports of child abuse or neglect within a family or involving third parties, as part of a criminal investigation or to respond to an urgent situation.

State Expenditures

This bill increases workload in the Department of Human Services to oversee, train, and support county departments investigating human trafficking of minors as well as to implement the uniform screening tool. The fiscal note assumes that this increase can be accomplished within existing appropriations. Should the department find that workload exceeds existing capacity, the fiscal note assumes that the department will address this through the annual budget process.

The bill may increase workload in trial courts and in the Office of the Child's Representative within the Judicial Department. However, it is assumed that most dependency and neglect cases where children have been trafficked are already being filed and that the bill will result in only a minimal number of additional filings, if any. The fiscal note assumes any increase in workload can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Local Government Impact

This bill increases workload for county departments of human and social services, which are required immediately to provide services to children reported to be victims of human trafficking and to implement a uniform screening tool to identify victims of trafficking. The precise impact to local governments has not been estimated.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect January 1, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2016, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Judicial

Human Services
Municipalities

Information Technology