



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB17-1052**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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

**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-0568  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Beckman  
 Sen. Smallwood

**Date:** May 31, 2017  
**Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**BILL TOPIC:** CHILD WELFARE ALLOCATION FORMULA FACTORS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase.	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Minimal ongoing workload increase.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill increases the flexibility of the Child Welfare Allocation Committee and the Colorado Department of Human Services (DHS) to consider various factors affecting the population of children in need of child welfare services when determining the formula for allocating county child welfare funding. Specifically, it removes the requirement that county funding allocations, expenditures, and caseloads over the previous three years be considered when setting the formula, as well as the prior year spending on and the number of families provided preventative family preservation services.

**Background**

Child welfare services are provided by county departments of human services and overseen by the state DHS. Funding for child welfare services is appropriated to the DHS and then distributed to counties. Of the \$473.4 million in total state spending on child welfare services, about \$416 million is passed through to counties as block grants from various sources and programs. Of this county funding, the largest share (\$350.9 million) is distributed to counties via the formula set by the Child Welfare Allocations Committee from the Child Welfare Services line item in the Long Bill. The Child Welfare Allocations Committee consists of 11 members, with 8 representing counties and 3 appointed by the DHS.

**State Expenditures**

Under the bill, the shift to a more flexible framework for determining the child welfare allocation formula may increase the staff time required for the DHS to identify and consider different factors used in the formula. Any impact is assumed to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

## Local Government Impact

While the bill will not affect the total amount of state appropriations spent on child welfare services, the new process for developing the child welfare allocation formula may result in a different distribution of funds to counties compared with current law. At this time, the exact impact of the bill on individual counties cannot be identified and will depend on the factors considered by the DHS and the Child Welfare Allocation Committee in the future.

## Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on March 16, 2017, and takes effect August 9, 2017, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Counties  
Information Technology

Human Services  
Local Affairs