



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB17-028**

**FISCAL NOTE**

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

**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-0519  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Gardner  
Rep. Nordberg

**Date:** January 18, 2017  
**Bill Status:** Senate Health and Human Services  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**BILL TOPIC:** HEALTHY FAMILIES AND MILITARY PREPAREDNESS ACT

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2017-2018</b>	<b>FY 2018-2019</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$22,465</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,505</u></b>
General Fund	22,465	9,505
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> \$22,465 - Department of Human Services (FY 2017-18)		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Ongoing state expenditure increase.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill requires the Colorado Department of Human Services (DHS) and county departments of human services to:

- collect information concerning the military affiliation of any person who has custody or control of a child who is the subject of an investigation of child abuse or neglect; and
- provide the command authority of a military installation with notice of, and information about, reports of known or suspected child abuse received concerning members of the armed forces, their spouses, significant others, or other family members who are assigned to that military installation.

The DHS and county department may enter into memoranda of understanding with the command authority of military installations to establish protocols for information sharing and for collaboration on the oversight of child welfare investigations involving military personnel and their family members. The military installation shall only use information shared about an investigation for its intended purpose and must maintain confidentiality of the information. The State Board of Human Services must promulgate rules for implementation of this bill.

**State Expenditures**

The bill increases General Fund expenditures in the DHS by **\$22,465 in FY 2017-18 and \$9,505 in FY 2018-19 and future years**. In addition, 0.1 FTE is required in the Department of Law. These costs are summarized in Table 1 and discussed below. Potential impacts to judicial agencies involved in the child welfare process are also mentioned below.

<b>Table 1. Expenditures Under SB 17-028</b>		
<b>Cost Components</b>	<b>FY 2017-18</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>
Information Technology Modifications	\$12,960	\$0
Legal Services	9,505	9,505
FTE	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,465</b>	<b>\$9,505</b>

**Information technology modifications.** In order to collect information about the military affiliation of persons who are the subject of a child welfare investigation, minor changes are required to the child welfare data system (TRAILS) managed by the DHS. Specifically, 160 hours of contractor time at an average rate of \$81 per hour is required to make the database updates. This work will be conducted by the Office of Information Technology using reappropriated funds.

**Legal services.** The Department of Law will require \$9,505 and 0.1 FTE per year to provide 100 hours of legal services to the DHS regarding rule promulgation; development of memoranda of understanding between the DHS, county departments, and military installations; and additional support concerning information sharing about child welfare cases. This cost in the Department of Law will be paid using reappropriated funds.

**Judicial agency impacts.** Judicial agencies involved in dependency and neglect cases, including the Office of the Child's Representative and the Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel, may have additional workload and costs under the bill. Additional information sharing between counties and military installations could increase the complexity for these agencies when gathering information about the case through the discovery process. It is assumed any impact in this area will be minimal and that any additional funding required will be requested by these agencies through the annual budget process.

**Local Government Impact**

The bill increases workload and costs for counties in three main areas. First, caseworkers will now be required to track information about the military affiliation of persons being investigated, which creates additional investigative and data entry work. Second, counties are required to share information with, and provide notice to, the command authority of military installations about child welfare investigations involving military personnel and family members assigned to that installation. Third, counties may choose to enter into memoranda of understanding with military installations in their communities, which will result in both initial and ongoing work to create and maintain these agreements.

The increase in workload and costs will vary by county depending on whether they have military installations in their jurisdiction and the extent to which the procedures developed for information sharing with military installations and data collection concerning military affiliation add to the duties of child welfare caseworkers compared to their existing procedures.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State Appropriations**

For FY 2017-18, the bill requires an appropriation of \$22,465 General Fund to the Department of Human Services. Of this amount, \$12,960 is reappropriated to the Office of Information Technology for information technology services and \$9,505 is reappropriated to the Department of Law for legal services. The Department of Law also requires an allocation of 0.1 FTE.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties	Human Services	Information Technology
Judicial	Law	Military Affairs