



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB17-028

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0519

Date: September 13, 2017

Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Gardner
Rep. Nordberg; Exum

Bill Status: Signed into Law

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

BILL TOPIC: HEALTHY FAMILIES AND MILITARY PREPAREDNESS ACT

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	<u>\$12,960</u>	Minimal workload increase.
General Fund	12,960	
Appropriation Required: \$12,960 - Department of Human Services (FY 2017-18)		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing minimal workload 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 that are assigned for assessment concerning a member of the armed forces assigned to that military installation or the spouse, significant other, or other family member who resides with that service member.

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 results in a one-time cost in the DHS of **\$12,960 in FY 2017-18**, and increases workload in the Department of Law and the Judicial Department starting in FY 2017-18. These impacts are described below.

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, for a total of \$12,960, 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 have increased workload to provide legal services to the DHS for rule promulgation and development of memoranda of understanding between the DHS, county departments, and military installations, as well as to provide additional support concerning information sharing about child welfare cases. Given that many counties with military installations already enter into memoranda of understanding with the military, it is assumed that additional legal services will be minimal (less than 25 hours per year) and can be accomplished within existing appropriations for legal services to the DHS.

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 increase 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 was signed into law by the Governor on June 5, 2017, and became effective on August 9, 2017.

State Appropriations

Consistent with this fiscal note, for FY 2017-18, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$12,960 General Fund to the Department of Human Services, the whole amount of which is reappropriated to the Office of Information Technology for information technology services.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Judicial

Human Services
Law

Information Technology
Military Affairs