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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0959 Date: April 5, 2018
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Singer; Landgraf; Sen. Gardner; Kefalas Bill Status: House Public Health Care and Human Services
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Bill Topic: CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION AND SERVICES

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure (minimal), State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

This bill allows foster parents to access certain information on foster children and requires counties to prioritize child care assistance to foster parents. The bill will increase workload for state agencies and impact local government and school district expenditures and workload on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

This bill authorizes prospective and current foster parents to receive information about a foster child that is necessary to meet the child's physical, mental, emotional, behavioral, and other trauma needs. This includes education records, relevant information in a family service plan, placement history, and medical records. The bill also allows community-based agencies and public health agencies that implement child abuse and neglect prevention programs to access the names, phone numbers, and addresses of families whose cases in the system are screened out or closed after an initial referral of child abuse or neglect. Finally, the bill requires counties to prioritize Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) funds to foster parents, certified kinship foster parents, and non-certified kinship care providers, subject to available capacity and funding.

State Expenditures

Starting in the current FY 2017-18, this bill will increase workload by a minimal amount in the Judicial Department, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Specifically, these agencies will be required to provide the information outlined in the bill to foster parents and other organizations and to redact information that is not subject to disclosure. It is assumed that the increase in workload can be accomplished by each agency within existing appropriations.

Local Government

The bill impacts counties and school districts as described below.

County departments of human or social services The bill will increase workload for county departments of human or social services to provide requested information and to redact information not subject to disclosure. The bill may also affect how counties distribute CCCAP funds and which families receive assistance. Under the bill, foster parents, certified kinship foster parents, and non-certified kinship care providers are prioritized for child care assistance. Assuming available funding remains constant, this representation could shift CCCAP funding away from other families that qualify for assistance.

School districts. Schools districts will see an increase of workload and expenditures to provide educational records of the foster youth to foster parents. School districts will also have to develop criteria and policies to verify the identity of the foster parents.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Health Care Policy and Financing
Human Services
Information Technology

Education
School Districts
Judicial