



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0675
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Ransom; Buckner

Date: January 29, 2020
Bill Status: House Public Health
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Bill Topic: COURT PROCEDURES RELINQUISHMENT PARENTAL RIGHTS

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

This bill allows parent's who voluntarily relinquished their parental rights to petition the court for reinstatement of parental rights. Starting in FY 2020-21, this bill will increase state and local 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 allows a parent who voluntarily relinquished their child to petition the court to reinstate the parent-child relationship. The bill also clarifies the court procedure for when a respondent parent with a pending dependency and neglect case pursues voluntary relinquishment of their parental rights.

Background

Under current law, county departments of human services, a guardian ad litem, or a child 16 year or older may petition the court to reinstate the parent-child relationship, if certain conditions are met. Under HB19-1104, a former parent is entitled to representation from the Office of Respondent Parents' Council during reinstatement proceedings.

State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2020-21, workload to trial courts, the Office of the Child's Representative, and the Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel will increase to the extent there are additional petitions for reinstatement of parental rights. Because cases to reinstate parental rights under current law are rare, the fiscal note assumes that any additional workload from expanding reinstatement to voluntary relinquishment cases can be handled within existing appropriations.

## Local Government

To the extent there are additional reinstatement cases, case worker workload for county departments of human services will increase. The fiscal note assumes this workload to be minimal.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial  
Counties  
Human Services

Information Technology  
Office of the Child's Representative  
Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel