

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0715.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 26-1347

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Gilchrist and Brown**, Camacho, Clifford, Froelich, Stewart R., Willford

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**House Committees**  
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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING CHANGING PRACTICES RELATED TO FEDERAL BENEFITS  
102 FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE.

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Under current law, a county department of human or social services (county department) is required, beginning on or before July 1, 2027, to determine whether a child or youth who is in foster care (child or youth) and who has a deceased parent may be eligible to receive federal survivor benefits and to apply for and manage those benefits under certain circumstances. Current law sets forth various survivor

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

benefit application, accounting, and notice requirements for county departments, which must save survivor benefit money in an account for the individual child or youth in some cases.

The bill extends, beginning on or before July 1, 2028, certain application, accounting, and notice provisions already in place for survivor benefits to federal supplemental security income benefits (SSI), which are monthly payments awarded to a child or youth with a disability and limited resources. The bill adds requirements related to identifying and documenting the disability of a child or youth in the child welfare system. A county department must deposit amounts above the countable resource threshold for SSI eligibility in a savings account specifically for individuals with disabilities, established and maintained for the child or youth in foster care. If a child or youth is receiving SSI, the county department must document how the money is spent in the state's welfare case management system.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-7-105, **amend**  
3 (1)(b) introductory portion, (2), (3)(b), (3)(c), (3)(d), (3)(e), (3)(f), (4),  
4 (5)(a), (5)(b), (6)(a)(I), (6)(a)(II), (6)(a)(III), (8) introductory portion,  
5 (8)(b), (8)(c), (8)(h), and (9); and **add** (1)(d), (3)(a.5), (3)(c.5), (8)(a.5),  
6 (8)(g.5), and (10) as follows:

7           **19-7-105. Federal benefits for children and youth in foster**  
8 **care - rules - legislative intent - legislative declaration - definitions.**

9           (1) (b) The general assembly further declares its intent to ensure  
10 that ALL federal benefits, INCLUDING SURVIVOR BENEFITS AND DISABILITY  
11 BENEFITS, provided to children or youth in foster care are set aside  
12 specifically for the use of individual children or youth in foster care,  
13 thereby:

14           (d) WITH RESPECT TO FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME  
15 BENEFITS FOR WHICH A CHILD OR YOUTH QUALIFIES BASED ON DISABILITY,  
16 IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT:

17           (I) ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH ENTERING THE FOSTER CARE

1 SYSTEM BE SCREENED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR  
2 OR RECEIVING FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME;

3 (II) TRANSPARENCY REGARDING HOW FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL  
4 SECURITY INCOME IS BEING SPENT AND MANAGED ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN  
5 AND YOUTH IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM BE INCREASED; AND

6 (III) WITH SUPPORT FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, COUNTY  
7 DEPARTMENTS IMPROVE THEIR CAPACITY AND CAPITALIZE ON COMMUNITY  
8 RESOURCES, INCLUDING BENEFIT PLANNERS, TO APPLY FOR AND MANAGE  
9 FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND  
10 YOUTH IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

11 (2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

12 (a) "COST OF CARE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION  
13 19-1-103.

14 (b) "FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME" MEANS BENEFITS  
15 AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO TITLE XVI OF THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL  
16 SECURITY ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1381 ET SEQ.

17 ~~(a)~~(c) "Federal survivor benefits" means survivor benefits that are  
18 administered by the United States social security administration, veterans  
19 benefits administration, or the railroad retirement board and that are based  
20 on the eligibility of an insured parent.

21 ~~(b)~~(d) "Interested party" means a child or youth; the child's or  
22 youth's counsel for youth; a parent and the parent's counsel, unless  
23 parental rights have been terminated or there is a court order restricting  
24 access; the individual with whom the child or youth is currently placed;  
25 the guardian ad litem; or other party who may have information about the  
26 child's or youth's eligibility for or receipt of federal survivor benefits OR  
27 FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME.

1           (3) (a.5) (I) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, IF THE  
2 COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAKES A FINDING OF SUBSTANTIATED ABUSE OR  
3 NEGLECT, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL REFER THE CHILD OR YOUTH  
4 TO THE APPROPRIATE STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL  
5 SCREENING WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER A CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S  
6 OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT.

7           (II) IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT A CHILD MAY  
8 BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, THE  
9 COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL INITIATE THE APPLICATION PROCESS  
10 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(d) OF THIS SECTION WITHIN FORTY-FIVE  
11 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A DETERMINATION OF A CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S  
12 DISABILITY PURSUANT TO A DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING DESCRIBED IN  
13 SUBSECTION (3)(a.5)(I) OF THIS SECTION.

14           (III) WHEN A CHILD IS ENROLLED IN THE CHILDREN'S HABILITATION  
15 RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM WAIVER ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
16 25.5-6-903 (4), THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL APPLY FOR FEDERAL  
17 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD IF AN  
18 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME HAS NOT  
19 ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED ON THE CHILD'S BEHALF OR THE CHILD HAS  
20 COUNTABLE RESOURCES THAT EXCEED THE THRESHOLD ESTABLISHED BY  
21 THE UNITED STATES SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

22           (b) Beginning on or before July 1, 2027, if a county department  
23 makes an initial determination that the child or youth is not likely to be  
24 eligible for federal survivor benefits OR, BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY  
25 1, 2028, IF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAKES AN INITIAL DETERMINATION  
26 THAT THE CHILD OR YOUTH IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL  
27 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, the county department shall annually

1 review the case of the child or youth to determine whether circumstances  
2 have changed to make the child or youth eligible for federal survivor  
3 benefits OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME.

4 (c) In conducting an initial benefit eligibility determination or an  
5 annual review pursuant to this subsection (3), the county department shall  
6 consult with interested parties as necessary to assess the child's or youth's  
7 eligibility for federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL  
8 SECURITY INCOME and to determine, in accordance with applicable federal  
9 law, the most likely, appropriate representative payee or fiduciary.

10 (c.5) (I) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT MUST DOCUMENT WHY A  
11 CHILD OR YOUTH IS NOT REASONABLY EXPECTED TO MEET THE ELIGIBILITY  
12 CRITERIA FOR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME IF:

13 (A) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAKES AN INITIAL OR SUBSEQUENT  
14 DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) THAT THE CHILD OR  
15 YOUTH IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL  
16 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME; AND

17 (B) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT IDENTIFIES A CHILD OR YOUTH AS  
18 HAVING A DISABILITY FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMPLIANCE WITH  
19 APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING  
20 REPORTING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-5-119 OR 45 CFR  
21 1355.44.

22 (II) IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAKES AN INITIAL OR  
23 SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) THAT  
24 A CHILD OR YOUTH IS LIKELY TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL  
25 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT MUST  
26 IDENTIFY THE CHILD OR YOUTH AS HAVING A DISABILITY FOR THE  
27 PURPOSES OF COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL

1 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING REPORTING REQUIRED PURSUANT  
2 TO SECTION 26-5-119 OR 45 CFR 1355.44.

3 (d) If the county department determines that the child or youth  
4 may be eligible to receive federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL  
5 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME and that the county department is the  
6 most appropriate representative payee or fiduciary, then the county  
7 department shall, in compliance with all applicable federal rules and  
8 regulations, apply for the federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL  
9 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME on behalf of the child or youth. If the  
10 county department determines that the child or youth may be eligible for  
11 federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME  
12 but that the county department is not the most appropriate representative  
13 payee or fiduciary, the county department shall provide information to the  
14 prospective representative payee or fiduciary that the county department  
15 has identified about how to apply for federal survivor benefits OR  
16 FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME on behalf of the child or  
17 youth and how to become the child's or youth's representative payee or  
18 fiduciary.

19 (e) Following a denial of federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL  
20 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME or other adverse benefit eligibility  
21 determination, the county department shall consult with interested parties  
22 and determine whether there are grounds to appeal. If there are grounds  
23 to appeal AND THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT WAS THE ORIGINAL APPLICANT,  
24 the county department shall appeal the denial or adverse determination.

25 (f) If a child or youth in noncertified kinship care may be eligible  
26 for federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY  
27 INCOME, the county department shall provide the noncertified kinship

1 caregiver with information about how to apply for federal survivor  
2 benefits OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME on behalf of the  
3 child or youth.

4 (4) If the county department becomes the representative payee or  
5 fiduciary for a child's or youth's federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL  
6 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, the county department shall annually  
7 reassess, in consultation with interested parties, whether a candidate other  
8 than the county department would be a preferable representative payee or  
9 fiduciary.

10 (5) (a) Beginning on or before July 1, 2027, IN THE CASE OF  
11 FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS, AND BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1,  
12 2028, IN THE CASE OF FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, if a  
13 county department is the representative payee or fiduciary for a child or  
14 youth, the county department shall:

15 (I) Not use any federal survivor benefits of a child or youth to pay  
16 for or reimburse the county department for care or services for the child  
17 or youth, including, but not limited to, foster care maintenance expenses  
18 as defined in the federal "Social Security Act", 42 U.S.C. sec. 675 (4)(A),  
19 and cost of care. ~~as defined in section 19-1-103.~~

20 (II) IF THE CHILD OR YOUTH RECEIVES FEDERAL SURVIVOR  
21 BENEFITS, establish and maintain, consistent with federal and state asset  
22 and resource limits, an account for deposit of the federal survivor benefits  
23 of a child or youth. The account may be an individual account or an  
24 approved collective account, if the representative payee maintains a  
25 separate ledger and accounting records for each child or youth beneficiary  
26 of an approved collective account. The contents of the account, including  
27 applicable interest or earnings, must be saved for the individual child or

1 youth.

2 (II.5) (A) IF THE CHILD OR YOUTH ACCUMULATES FEDERAL  
3 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME ABOVE THE COUNTABLE RESOURCE  
4 THRESHOLD FOR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME ELIGIBILITY  
5 ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION,  
6 THE AMOUNT OF INCOME ABOVE THE THRESHOLD MUST BE DEPOSITED IN  
7 AN ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED FOR THE CHILD OR YOUTH  
8 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.1-311. THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL  
9 CHOOSE THE MOST CONSERVATIVE INVESTMENT OPTION AVAILABLE.  
10 COUNTY DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ARE NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THEIR  
11 OWN PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION TO COMPLY WITH THIS  
12 SUBSECTION (5)(a)(II.5)(A).

13 (B) IF A CHILD OR YOUTH IS RECEIVING FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL  
14 SECURITY INCOME, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL DOCUMENT IN THE  
15 STATE AUTOMATED CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ALL EXPENDITURES,  
16 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, EXPENDITURES FROM FEDERAL  
17 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, MADE ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR  
18 YOUTH BY NEED TYPE AND FUNDING SOURCE.

19 (III) Provide an annual accounting of the accumulation of the  
20 child's or youth's federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL  
21 SECURITY INCOME, IF THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME IS  
22 DEPOSITED INTO AN ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(a)(II.5) OF  
23 THIS SECTION, to the child or youth and the legal representative of the  
24 child or youth. IF THE CHILD OR YOUTH RECEIVES FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL  
25 SECURITY INCOME, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE CHILD  
26 OR YOUTH AND THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH  
27 WITH AN ANNUAL ACCOUNTING OF THE EXPENDITURES DOCUMENTED

1 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(a)(II.5) OF THIS SECTION. A COUNTY  
2 DEPARTMENT CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKER SHALL ANNUALLY SHARE THE  
3 ACCOUNTING INFORMATION WITH THE CHILD OR YOUTH AND THE LEGAL  
4 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH. The annual accounting  
5 information must include:

6 (A) The amount and source of federal survivor benefits OR  
7 FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME collected by the county  
8 department and credited to ~~the~~ EACH account maintained on behalf of the  
9 child or youth;

10 (B) The balance of ~~the~~ EACH account maintained on behalf of the  
11 child or youth; ~~and~~

12 (C) Information regarding the child's or youth's accounts and  
13 earnings related to those accounts, if applicable, and any additional assets  
14 and resources, including benefits, insurance, cash assets, trust accounts,  
15 and earnings, if the assets or resources are controlled by the county  
16 department; AND

17 (D) FOR A CHILD OR YOUTH RECEIVING FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL  
18 SECURITY INCOME, INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXPENDITURES MADE ON  
19 BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH BY NEED TYPE AND FUNDING SOURCE.

20 (b) If a county department is not the representative payee or  
21 fiduciary for a child's or youth's federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL  
22 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, the county department is not  
23 responsible for establishing or maintaining an account for deposit of the  
24 federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME  
25 of the child or youth or providing related accounting information pursuant  
26 to subsection (5)(a) of this section.

27 (6) (a) The county department shall provide timely,

1 developmentally appropriate notice to the parties, unless prevented by a  
2 court order, of:

3 (I) Submission of an application for federal survivor benefits OR  
4 FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME on behalf of a child or youth;

5 (II) Submission of a request for the county department to become  
6 the representative payee or fiduciary for the child's or youth's federal  
7 survivor benefits OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME and  
8 identification of the representative payee or fiduciary ultimately selected;

9 (III) Receipt by the county department of a federal agency's  
10 decision regarding federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL  
11 SECURITY INCOME, including denial, termination, or reduction of federal  
12 survivor benefits OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME;

13 (8) On or before January 1, 2027, IN THE CASE OF FEDERAL  
14 SURVIVOR BENEFITS, AND BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2028, IN  
15 THE CASE OF FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, the STATE  
16 department, ~~of human services~~, in consultation with interested  
17 stakeholders, including, but not limited to, county departments,  
18 organizations that advocate on behalf of youth in foster care,  
19 organizations that represent court-appointed special advocates,  
20 organizations that advocate on behalf of disability rights, the office of  
21 respondent parents' counsel, and the office of the child's representative,  
22 shall adopt rules consistent with applicable state and federal law for the  
23 implementation of this section. The rules must include guidance to the  
24 county departments on:

25 (a.5) SCREENING PROCESSES FOR IDENTIFYING WHETHER A CHILD  
26 OR YOUTH IS ALREADY RECEIVING FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY  
27 INCOME OR MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL

1 SECURITY INCOME AND SCREENING PROCESSES FOR SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL  
2 ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS.

3 (b) Best practices for consulting with the child or youth or other  
4 interested parties who may have information about the child's or youth's  
5 receipt of or eligibility for federal survivor benefits OR FEDERAL  
6 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME;

7 (c) The application process for federal survivor benefits OR  
8 FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME for each child or youth, who,  
9 pursuant to screening, is likely to be determined eligible; ~~for federal~~  
10 ~~survivor benefits;~~

11 (g.5) THE PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING AN  
12 ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.1-311 FOR AMOUNTS OVER THE  
13 FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME COUNTABLE RESOURCE  
14 THRESHOLD, AND FOR PROVIDING RELATED ACCOUNTING INFORMATION  
15 ANNUALLY;

16 (h) Specifications for providing required notices regarding federal  
17 survivor benefit OR FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME  
18 applications, applications for a county department to become a  
19 representative payee or fiduciary, receipt of decisions regarding ~~federal~~  
20 ~~survivor benefit~~ eligibility, appeals of denials, and establishment of  
21 accounts; and

22 (9) (a) The department of human services shall provide ONGOING  
23 technical assistance and guidance to the county departments about how  
24 the county departments: ~~shall address saving federal survivor benefits in~~  
25 ~~the best interests of a child or youth.~~

26 (I) APPLY FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS OR FEDERAL  
27 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH;

1 (II) STREAMLINE DISABILITY SCREENING PROCESSES TO ENSURE  
2 THAT COUNTY DEPARTMENTS ACCURATELY IDENTIFY A CHILD OR YOUTH  
3 WITH A DISABILITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REPORTING  
4 REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE MEDICAL  
5 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WAIVERS AND FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY  
6 INCOME;

7 (III) CAPITALIZE ON COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INCLUDING BENEFIT  
8 PLANNERS, IN FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME APPLICATION,  
9 BENEFIT MANAGEMENT, AND PLANNING ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH;

10 (IV) MINIMIZE COUNTY DEPARTMENT RISK IN ESTABLISHING AND  
11 MAINTAINING AN ACCOUNT ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH PURSUANT  
12 TO THIS ARTICLE 7; AND

13 (V) ADDRESS SAVING FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS IN THE BEST  
14 INTERESTS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH.

15 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE OFFICE  
16 OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND  
17 GUIDANCE TO COUNSEL FOR YOUTH AND GUARDIANS AD LITEM ABOUT  
18 WHETHER AND HOW TO APPEAL A DENIAL OR ADVERSE DETERMINATION  
19 REGARDING A CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL  
20 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME.

21 (c) IN PROVIDING THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE  
22 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (9), THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
23 SHALL MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCIES BY COORDINATING STAFF SUPPORT FOR  
24 BOTH FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS AND FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL  
25 SECURITY INCOME OBTAINED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

26 (10) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, A COUNTY  
27 DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE ONE EMPLOYEE TO SERVE AS THE POINT

1 OF CONTACT FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER  
2 CARE TO SERVE AS A LIAISON WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE  
3 PURPOSES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE PROVIDED  
4 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION.

5 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
8 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
9 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
10 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
11 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
12 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
13 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
14 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.