

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis
House Appropriations Committee

Concerning affirming the rights of children and youth in dependency and neglect proceedings.

Prime Sponsors:

Representative Gilchrist; Bradfield
Senator Mullica

Date Prepared:

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Required, Amendments in Packet

General Fund Impact

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 02/27/26.

No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

The Health & Human Services Committee Report (03/04/26) includes amendments to the bill. JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff agree that the amendments do not change the fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet

- J.001 Staff-prepared appropriation amendment
- L.006 Bill Sponsor amendment - does not change fiscal impact.

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill requires but does not contain an appropriation clause.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.001

Staff amendment **J.001** (attached) appropriates a total of \$224,996 General Fund to the Judicial Department in FY 2026-27.

L.006

Bill Sponsor amendment **L.006** (attached) requires that the court conduct a hearing on if there is a reasonable basis to dismiss the case, rather than determine whether or not the child is dependent or neglected, when ruling on the objection. JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff agree that no appropriation is required if amendment **L.006** is adopted, see the attached Legislative Council Staff memo at the end of this packet for a detailed fiscal analysis.

The Committee should adopt either **J.001** or **L.006**, but not both.

Points to Consider

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2026-27 based on the March 2026 Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSP) revenue forecast. The budget package includes \$57.3 million in set-asides for legislation outside of the package (see table below). The budget package accounts for the 15.0 percent reserve associated with the placeholders.

General Fund Appropriation Placeholders for Other 2026 Legislation

Item	FY 2026-27
SB 26-149 (Pathways for Individuals with Mental Health Disorders)	23,222,868
Competency services	20,000,000
Potential prison capacity supplemental	5,900,000
Applied Behavioral Analysis Licensing	5,000,000
County Administration shared services	3,100,000
Medicaid Working Group	500,000
HB 26-1331 (Modify 2026 Interim Committees)	-396,469
Total - Placeholders for other legislation	\$57,326,399

General Fund Impact

This bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$224,996 for FY 2026-27, reducing the \$57.3 million set aside by the same amount.