

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis House Appropriations Committee

Concerning changing practices related to federal benefits for youth in foster care.

Prime Sponsors:

Representatives Gilchrist; Brown
Senators Daugherty; Ball

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Not Required, No Amendment in Packet

Significant Appropriation Increase in Third Year

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/21/26.

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

Amendments in This Packet

None.

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill neither requires nor contains an appropriation clause for FY 2026-27.

Points to Consider

Future Fiscal Impact

Although this bill would not require a General Fund appropriation for FY 2026-27, it is projected to require General Fund appropriations of \$14,683 in FY 2027-28 and \$1,390,121 in FY 2028-29.

Future Budget Process

The bill is projected to increase county costs by \$2.9 million beginning in FY 2028-29. Up to 80.0 percent of county child welfare costs are paid by the State General Fund, subject to available appropriations. This amount can be partially offset by federal funds depending on family eligibility. The Revised Fiscal Note projects \$1.4 million in out-year General Fund obligations for this purpose.

The most recent report by the Department of Human Services on March 13, 2026, indicates that the State share of child welfare funding is \$26.9 million General Fund below the amount required to cover actual county expenditures in FY 2025-26. This amount does not account for increased service requirements that may result from legislation.

JBC Staff anticipates that the out-year costs identified by the Final Fiscal Note for the bill will be included in the Department's budget requests in future years. The extent to which the out-year fiscal impact of the bill is borne by counties or the General Fund will be subject to future budget decisions made by the General Assembly. If additional General Fund is not provided through the budget process, the State share of child welfare costs will continue to fall below 80.0 percent of State responsibility.