



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 22-0997	Date:	July 27, 2022
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Michaelson Jenet Sen. Buckner	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: CHILD RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT & RUNAWAY YOUTH

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill creates a task force to study reasons why youth run away from out-of-home placement. The bill increases state expenditures from FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2022-23, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$ \$99,500 to the Office of Child Protection Ombudsman.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 22-1375**

		Budget Year FY 2022-23	Out Year FY 2023-24	Out Year FY 2024-25
Revenue		-	-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$99,500	\$91,500	\$21,458
Transfers		-	-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$14,925	\$13,725	\$3,219

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates a 22-member task force to prevent youth from running away from out-of-home placement in the Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman (CPO) to:

- analyze the root causes of why children run away from out-of-home placement;
- develop a consistent, prompt, and effective response to recover missing children; and
- address the safety and wellbeing of a child upon the child's return to out-of-home placement.

The CPO must enter into an agreement with an institution of higher education to perform research and to support the task force. The task force must convene its first meeting by October 1, 2022, and must meet at least once every two months. The bill outlines the specific duties of the task force and requires the institution of higher education to conduct focus groups for children in out-of-home placement and young adults who have aged out of the system. The task force must submit status report on October 1, 2023, and then must submit a final report by October 1, 2024.

Background

The CPO received 0.5 FTE in the FY 2022-23 Long Bill for a public information officer. The fiscal note assumes that this official will assist in the facilitation of the task force.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CPO by \$99,500 in FY 2022-23, \$91,500 in FY 2023-24, and \$21,458 in FY 2024-25 from the General Fund. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 22-1375

Cost Components	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
Child Protection Ombudsman			
Facilitator Contract	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$20,833
Member Reimbursement	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$625
Higher Education Contract	\$48,000	\$40,000	-
Total	\$99,500	\$91,500	\$21,458

Child Protection Ombudsman. Starting in FY 2022-23, expenditures will increase in the CPO to hire a facilitator to assist the public information officer in supporting the task force, to reimburse members on the task force, and to contract with a higher education institution. A contract for a facilitator is estimated at \$50,000 per year and reimbursement for task force members is estimated at \$1,500 per year, assuming that some meetings will occur remotely; these costs are prorated in FY 2024-25 for five months. The contract with a higher education institution is estimated at \$48,000 in FY 2022-23 and \$40,000 in FY 2023-24, and contract costs include reimbursement for focus group participants.

Institutions of higher education. From FY 2022-23 through FY 2023-24, revenue and expenditures in the institution of higher education that contracts to provide the work under the bill will increase.

Governor's Office. The Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions will have increased workload to make the required appointments under the bill, including recruiting, vetting, and interviewing potential appointees. It is assumed that the Governor's Office may seek funding through the annual budget process, if necessary, based on the total workload of the Boards and Commissions office and the cumulative impact of all legislation affecting the office.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are shown in Table 2.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve beginning in FY 2022-23. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve as shown in Table 1, which will decrease the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 7, 2022.

State Appropriations

For FY 2022-23, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$99,500 from the General Fund to the Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman in the Judicial Department.

State and Local Government Contacts

Child Protection Ombudsman
Health Care Policy and Financing
Human Services
Office of the Child's Representative

Education
Higher Education
Information Technology
Public Safety