



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0350	Date:	July 15, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Bradley; Joseph Sen. Kirkmeyer; Michaelson Jenet	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
		Fiscal Analyst:	John Armstrong 303-866-6289 john.armstrong@coleg.gov

Bill Topic: ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS IN CHILD WELFARE MATTERS

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

The bill requires the state and local governments to make reasonable efforts to ensure language access for children and families in the child welfare system. Beginning in FY 2024-25, the bill will increase state and local expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$74,953 to the Judicial Department.

Fiscal Note Status: The final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill, which was recommended by the Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 24-1031**

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	Cash Funds	\$74,953	\$84,854
	Centrally Appropriated	\$16,053	\$20,066
	Total Expenditures	\$91,006	\$104,920
	Total FTE	0.8 FTE	1.0 FTE
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts		-	-

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires counties to meet the provisions of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and make reasonable efforts to ensure language access when providing services to children placed in out-of-home care and their families.

The bill also requires courts to provide translation and interpretation services to parties in dependency and neglect cases, including in dispositional hearings, if the party has limited English proficiency.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase state expenditures about \$91,000 in FY 2024-25 and \$105,000 in FY 2025-26 and ongoing, paid from the Judicial Stabilization Cash Fund. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 24-1031

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Judicial Department		
Personal Services	\$66,803	\$83,504
Operating Expenses	\$950	\$950
Capital Outlay Costs	\$7,200	\$400
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$16,053	\$20,066
Total	\$91,006	\$104,920
FTE	0.8 FTE	1.0 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Judicial Department. Providing language access services to parties upon request requires an increase in court expenditures as described below.

- **Staff.** The Office of Language Access in the State Court Administrator's Office requires 1.0 FTE for a Court Programs Analyst to support the increased need for translation services. Standard operating expenses and capital outlay costs are included. Costs are prorated to assume a September start date in FY 2024-25.
- **Potential additional costs.** In future years, demand for translation services is expected to grow as attorneys and clients become aware of these services. For informational purposes, a review by the Judicial Department of current translation costs estimated the average cost for Spanish translation was \$1,443 per document and \$4,002 per document for other language translation. If 3 percent of written court orders are requested to be translated, including requests in languages other than Spanish, it is estimated that costs to courts to translate documents would increase by \$137,547 annually. Because translation costs will depend on

utilization, they have not been included in the fiscal note, and will be addressed through the annual budget process when utilization data are available.

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.

Local Government

Similar to the state, counties will have increased costs to make reasonable efforts to provide language access services to persons in child dependency and neglect cases as well as comply with the Federal Civil Rights Act.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 3, 2024, and takes effect on August 7, 2024, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$74,953 and 0.8 FTE to the Judicial Department, paid from the Judicial Stabilization Cash Fund.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Human Services	Judicial
Law	Office of the Child's Representative	

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit: leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes.