

MEMORANDUM



JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

TO Members of the Joint Budget Committee
FROM Robin J. Smart, JBC Staff (303-866-4955)
DATE May 12, 2021
SUBJECT Potential legislation concerning a funding model used to determine child welfare services allocation, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation (LLS 21-0831.02) - UPDATED

LLS 21-0831.02 CHILD WELFARE FUNDING MODEL

Current language in the bill requires:

- The use of the child welfare funding model for determining Child Welfare Block, Core Services, and additional Staffing allocations to counties beginning in FY 2023-24;
- The funding model to inform annual budget requests;
- Ongoing evaluations of the model to ensure that it remains up to date and reflects changes in federal and state law and annually updated county data;
- An updated workload study and the inclusion of that data in the model;
- Annual modifications to the model by the contracted entity; and
- A triennial evaluation of the implementation of the model.
- Appropriates \$250,000 for the workload study.

The following amendments to the bill have been requested by the Department of Human Services and the Child Welfare Allocations Committee:

- Page 3, line 17, after "department" insert "and the child welfare allocations committee".
- Page 3, line 25, after "department" insert "and the child welfare allocations committee".
- Page 4, line 14, strike "the state department shall" and substitute "the child welfare committee shall make recommendations to the state department concerning how to modify the results of the funding model to align with the appropriation."
- Page 4, strike lines 15 through 17.
- Page 7, line 5, strike "2021." and substitute "2021, and includes factors that best meet the needs of children, youth, and families in the child welfare system".
- Modifications to the implementation dates in the bill to ensure there is enough time for the completion of the workload study and the incorporation of its data into the model. This will likely result in delaying full implementation of the model by one year. Several dates in the bill will need to be changed to account for this.

JBC staff has worked with the drafter and recommends the following amendments to the bill. Staff requests permission to make these changes and any necessary technical corrections prior to introduction.

- Page 3, line 17, strike "department" and substitute "department, after input from the child welfare allocations committee,".
- Page 3, line 25, strike "department" and substitute "department, after input from the child welfare allocations committee".

- Page 4, line 14, after "model," insert "the child welfare committee shall make recommendations to the state department concerning how to modify the results of the funding model to align with the appropriation. After input from the child welfare allocations committee,".
- Page 4, line 15, strike “by the same percentage” and substitute “to ensure that the funding made available to all counties through capped and targeted allocations does not exceed the annual appropriation.”.
- Page 4, strike lines 16 and 17.
- Page 7, line 5, strike "2021." and substitute "2021, and includes factors that best meet the needs of children, youth, and families in the child welfare system".
- Modifications to the implementation dates:
 - Page 2, line 8, strike “2022-2023” and substitute “2023-2024”.
 - Page 3, line 1, strike "2022-2023" and substitute "2023-2024".
 - Page 3, line 15, strike "2023." and substitute "2024."
 - Page 3, line 16, strike "2023-2024" and substitute "2024-2025".
 - Page 5, line 2, strike "October 1, 2022," and substitute "January 15, 2023,".
 - Page 7, line 6, strike "October" and substitute "December".
 - Page 7, line 9, strike "2022-23 and 2023-24" and substitute "2023-2024 and 2024-25".
 - Page 7, line 11, strike "2023." and substitute "2024.".
 - Page 7, line 16, strike "2023-24" and substitute "2024-25".
 - Page 7, line 16, strike “For both years,” and substitute “On or before March 31, 2024, the outside entity shall update and modify the funding model to be used for the 2024-25 fiscal year. For each year,”
 - Page 7, line 23, strike "2023" and substitute "2024.".
 - Page 7, line 24, strike "2023," and substitute "2024,".
 - Page 8, line 3, strike "2023," and substitute "2024,".
 - Page 8, line 25, strike "2023-24," and substitute "2024-25,".