



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB16-205**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-1267  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Lambert  
Rep. Hamner

**Date:** August 23, 2016  
**Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**BILL TOPIC:** EXPENSES OF INDIGENT PARENTS

| <b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>                                | <b>FY 2016-2017</b>             | <b>FY 2017-2018</b> |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>State Revenue</b>  |                                 |                     |
| <b>State Expenditures</b>                                   | No net change.                  |                     |
| General Fund  | See State Expenditures section. |                     |
| <b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.                        |                                 |                     |
| <b>Future Year Impacts:</b> See State Expenditures section. |                                 |                     |

**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, the Office of the State Court Administrator receives funding to pay for an indigent parent to retain one expert witness and to obtain a transcript of the trial during a parent-child termination proceeding. Given that responsibility for retaining counsel for indigent parents in such cases is now managed by the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel (ORPC), this bill clarifies that funding for these expenses are to be appropriated to the ORPC.

**Background**

Respondent parents' counsel are appointed by the court to represent indigent parents involved in dependency and neglect cases. Senate Bill 14-203 led to the creation of the ORPC as an independent judicial agency to manage the appointment of respondent parents' counsel. The ORPC began work on January 1, 2016, and will assume responsibility for payment of respondent parents' counsel on July 1, 2016.

**State Expenditures**

By clarifying current law regarding authority of payment for certain respondent parent expenses, the bill reduces costs in the Office of the State Court Administrator and increases costs in the ORPC by an identical amount, resulting in no net change in state spending. Current appropriations to the Office of the State Court Administrator and the ORPC in the FY 2016-17 Long Bill currently reflect spending for these expenses as occurring in the ORPC. Therefore, no adjustment in appropriations is required.

**Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 6, 2016, and became effective on July 1, 2016.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Judicial