



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**HB 20-1147**

**REVISED  
FISCAL NOTE**

(replaces fiscal note dated February 3, 2020)

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 20-0676	<b>Date:</b>	March 13, 2020
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. Buckner; Ransom Sen. Smallwood; Moreno	<b>Bill Status:</b>	Senate Judiciary
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**Bill Topic:** **REASONABLE INDEPENDENCE FOR CHILDREN IN ACTIVITIES**

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

This bill clarifies that allowing a child of sufficient maturity and ability to do certain independent activities are not grounds for determining child abuse or neglect. The bill affects state and local government workload on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** This revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill.

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill changes the definition of child neglect to exclude when a child is allowed to participate in independent activities that would be deemed safe by a reasonable parent based on the child's maturity, condition, and abilities. Examples include traveling to and from school, traveling to and from a nearby commercial or recreational facility, engaging in outdoor play, and remaining at home unintended.

**State Expenditures**

Starting in FY 2020-21, workload to the Office of the Child's Representative, the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel, and the trial courts may increase to the extent the additional criteria on what constitutes child abuse and neglect increases litigation time. Conversely, to the extent fewer dependency and neglect cases are brought forward by excluding certain activities as constituting abuse or neglect, workload to these agencies will decrease. Because it is unknown how the bill will affect the number of cases and the length of cases, the fiscal note assumes that any change in appropriations will be requested through the annual budget process.

**Local Government**

To the extent that county department of human services caseworkers and county attorneys are involved in cases related to the bill, workload may increase due to increased litigation of cases, or may decrease if there are fewer dependency and neglect cases.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties	Human Services
Information Technology	Judicial