

Summary of Legislation

This bill makes several changes to the operations of the Colorado Children's Trust Fund (CCTF) and the membership of its board.

CCTF board membership and powers. The bill increases the membership of the CCTF board from 9 to 17 members. The 8 new members include the director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF); the director of the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA); the Child Protection Ombudsman; two members who represent county leadership in public health, human, or social services; one member who is a parent or representative of a parent organization; and two members appointed by the leader of each house of the General Assembly. The bill imposes a two term limit on board members.

The bill also renames the fund as the "Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund" and expands the duties and powers of the board accordingly. Namely, it authorizes the board to advise various entities on child maltreatment prevention, develop strategies to decrease its incidence, and to monitor local child maltreatment prevention plans.

CCTF revenue and spending. Under current law, the CCTF board is only allowed to spend 75 percent of money credited to the CCTF until the total amount of assets in the fund exceeds \$5 million, and once this threshold is reached, court docket fees are no longer deposited into the fund. This bill repeals these statutory restrictions on both fee collection to and spending from the fund.

Reporting and repeal deadlines. The bill extends the reporting and repeal deadlines by four years. It extends the deadline for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide a report to the General Assembly evaluating CCTF expenditures and impacts of grants to November 1, 2025. The bill also extends the repeal date of the CCTF and board to July 1, 2026.

Background

Under current law, the CCTF collects \$15 from each docket fee collected on a proceeding for the dissolution of marriage or civil union. In addition, the CCTF receives a portion of the General Fund appropriated for child sexual abuse prevention activities. The fund had a balance of approximately \$2.2 million as of December 31, 2019.

Assumptions

The fiscal note assumes that the CCTF board will follow current practice and continue to meet six times per year. It is assumed that legislative leadership will appoint legislators to the board and that appointed legislators will be eligible for per diem and reimbursement of expenses.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase state General Fund expenditures by \$2,942 per year starting in FY 2020-21. These costs are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 20-1317

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Legislator Per Diem and Expenses	\$2,823	\$2,823
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$119	\$119
Total Cost	\$2,942	\$2,942

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

Legislative Department. The Legislative Department will have increased costs of \$2,823 to reimburse the two members of the General Assembly who are appointed to the CCTF board. These costs, which continue from FY 2020-21 through FY 2025-26, are based on per diem of \$111 and expenses of \$124 per member for each meeting.

CCTF Board Membership. The Child Protection Ombudsman, HCPF, and DOLA will have increased workload for staff to serve on the CCTF board. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), which currently have representatives on the board, may have increased workload associated with the expanded duties of the board. These increases can be accomplished within existing appropriations to each agency.

Child abuse prevention spending. By removing the restriction on spending from the CCTF, the bill increases the amount of funding available for grants and other disbursements from the fund. Money in the CCTF is subject to annual appropriation by the General Assembly and any change in appropriations is at the discretion of the General Assembly. To the extent that more grants are provided, or the modified board directs grant funding for different purposes, the bill may impact the number of dependency and neglect case filings and the services provided by various agencies in the judicial and child welfare systems, and their associated costs. These impacts cannot be estimated and will be addressed through the annual budget process.

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 estimated to be \$119 per year beginning in FY 2020-21 through FY 2025-26.

Local Government

Among the new board members, two appointees must be representatives of county leadership in the areas of public health and human or social services. This workload increase can be absorbed within existing resources. To the extent additional grant funding is made available from the CCTF or grant funding is distributed in a different manner, funding to any recipient counties may be impacted.

Effective Date

The bill was deemed lost on June 16, 2020.

State Appropriations

For FY 2021-21, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$2,942 to the Legislative Department.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Health Care Policy and Financing
Judicial
Local Affairs
Public Health and Environment

Governor
Human Services
Information Technology
Education
Legislative Council