



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

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| Drafting Number: | LLS 22-0195 | Date: | February 1, 2022 |
| Prime Sponsors: | Rep. Ransom; Young Sen. Buckner; Smallwood | Bill Status: | House HHS |
| | | Fiscal Analyst: | Will Clark 303-866-4720 Will.Clark@state.co.us |

Bill Topic: REASONABLE INDEPENDENCE FOR CHILDREN

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

The bill amends the statutory definition of neglect to state that a child is not neglected when allowed to participate in certain independent and safe activities. It decreases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: The bill does not require an appropriation.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

The bill amends the statutory definition of neglect. It specifies that a child is not neglected when allowed to participate in independent activities considered safe by a reasonable parent, guardian or legal custodian based on the child's maturity and development. These activities include:

- traveling to and from school;
- travelling to nearby businesses and recreational facilities;
- playing outdoors; and
- staying at home or another location considered safe by the child's parent, guardian or legal custodian.

State Expenditures

The bill may minimally decrease workload in the Judicial Department beginning in FY 2022-23 to the extent that the trial courts hear fewer cases due to the narrower definition of neglect in statute. For dependency and neglect cases that are handled by the courts, it is assumed that the number of hearings and time per case will be similar as under current law for the court to apply the standard under the bill. Overall, no change in appropriations is required.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Information Technology
Local Affairs
Sheriffs

Education
Judicial
Municipalities

Human Services
Law
Public Safety