



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB17-016

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0260 **Date:** June 1, 2017
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Neville T.; Jahn **Bill Status:** Signed into Law
 Rep. Nordberg; Kraft-Tharp **Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

BILL TOPIC: COUNTY CHOICE CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Potential workload decrease.	
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing potential decrease in state workload.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill, originally recommended by the Legislative Audit Committee, makes the use of child protection teams optional for all counties, regardless of the number of referrals received by the county. Under the bill, county directors of human services may decide whether to convene a child protection team and, if convened, how they should operate. It also makes conforming amendments in statute to reflect the optional nature of child protection teams. The state Department of Human Services must provide a summary and description of the work of county child protection teams in its 2017 SMART Government Act hearing.

Background

Under current law, all counties receiving more than 50 referrals relating to child abuse or neglect must form a child protection team to publicly review the assessments made by child welfare staff and make recommendations about particular cases and the child welfare system generally. Currently, 52 counties are required to use child protection teams; it is encouraged, but optional, for other counties. Child protection teams are made up of community volunteers and coordinated by the county director of human services or his or her designee. In April 2016, the Division of Child Welfare in the Colorado Department of Human Services issued rules allowing counties to conduct child protection team reviews using a risk-based approach according to a plan filed with the division.

State Expenditures

To the extent counties discontinue the use of child protection teams, the bill may result in a minimal decrease in workload for the Division of Child Welfare in the Department of Human Services associated with overseeing county child protection teams. Following passage of the bill, the DHS will have a minimal one-time increase in workload to update child welfare regulations and to report information about child protection team use at its 2017 SMART Government Act hearing. No change in appropriations to the Department of Human Services is required as a result of this bill.

Local Government Impact

For counties currently required to convene a child protection team, the bill will result in workload and cost savings if a county chooses to discontinue the use of its child protection team. These savings result from less time being spent by caseworkers preparing material and presenting cases to the child protection team and by county staff coordinating the work of the child protection team. Counties that choose to continue the use of child protection teams are expected to maintain a similar level of workload and costs as under current law, but may also have workload savings depending on how they make use of child protection teams.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on April 4, 2017, and takes effect August 9, 2017, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties Human Services Information Technology Judicial