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Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-1110 Date: June 22, 2018
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Singer; Young Sen. Gardner Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: SERVICES FOR SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

This bill allows counties to provide services to former foster care youths and creates a steering committee. The bill increases state and local government expenditures and workload on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: The bill requires and includes a General Fund appropriation of \$30,000 to the Department of Human Services.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 18-1319

Table with 4 columns: Category, FY 2018-19, FY 2019-20. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

This bill allows county departments of human or social services to provide services to foster youth who have aged out of the foster care system if the county department develops a plan for the services. Counties may fund these services using money transferred to a separate county fund from a county's allocation of Core Services funding. Services for former foster youth includes assistance with:

- education;
- employment;
- financial management;
- housing;
- mental health care; and
- substance abuse prevention.

The bill also creates the Former Foster Care Youth Steering Committee, established in the state Department of Human Services (DHS). The committee must convene on or before October 30, 2018, and must include stakeholder representation from the state and county levels. The committee is charged with developing an implementation plan for services to former foster youth; making recommendations on the operation, evaluation, and sustainability of the implementation plan; coordinating with similar committees; and submitting a report with its recommendations to the Executive Director of the DHS, the Governor, the Joint Budget Committee, and the General Assembly by January 1, 2020. The implementation plan recommended by the steering committee is not required to become operational unless there is adequate state and federal funding.

Background

Based on county estimates, at one period of time, there are about 300 youth, aged 18 to 21, that leave Colorado's Foster Care System without a permanent home.

Core Services. In 1994, the General Assembly created the Family Preservation Program, also known as Core Services, to provide resources and support to families when youth are at imminent risk of out-of-home placement, in need of services to return home, or to maintain an out-of-home placement in the least restrictive setting. Core Services include:

- home based intervention;
- intensive family therapy;
- life skills;
- day treatment;
- sexual abuse treatment;
- special economic assistance;
- mental health services;
- substance abuse treatment;
- aftercare services; and
- county designed services.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase state expenditures by \$30,000 in FY 2018-19 and by \$20,000 in FY 2019-20 for the DHS. Starting in FY 2018-19, the bill will also increase workload for the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), and higher education institutions, as discussed below.

Department of Human Services. The bill will increase expenditures by \$30,000 in FY 2018-19 and \$20,000 in FY 2019-20 for the DHS to hire a vendor to perform consultation and facilitation services for the steering committee. The fiscal note assumes that work to obtain a facilitator will begin in FY 2018-19. Duties for the facilitator will include: convening meetings; meeting facilitation; developing recommendations; and drafting the final report. This estimate is based on similar task forces within the DHS.

Department of Local Affairs. Under the bill, the DOLA may assist county departments of human or social services in helping former foster youth secure housing. This could be through the securing of housing vouchers through a variety of programs or if appropriations are available, securing deposits related to housing. DOLA already provides housing vouchers to homeless youth; therefore, the increase in workload is expected to be minimal.

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Workload will increase for the Regional Accountable Entities within HCPF to assist county departments of human or social services in serving former foster youth on Medicaid. Because former foster youth already qualify for Medicaid, Medicaid costs will not increase. However, workload may increase to assist counties that opt to provide additional services to Medicaid enrollees. It is assumed that such increase will be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Higher education institutions. Workload will increase for higher education institutions to the extent that institutions work with county departments of human or social services to provide assistance to former foster youths to enroll or attend education and training programs. It is assumed that such increase will be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Steering Committee. Workload will increase for state employees to serve on the steering committee. The fiscal note assumes that members of the committee will not receive compensation and therefore, the increase can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government

To the extent that counties choose to provide services to former foster care youth under the bill, less funding will be available for child welfare Core Services. Workload will also increase for county departments of human or social services to create a plan on how the county department will provide services to former foster youths and for county representatives to serve on the steering committee.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 18, 2018.

State Appropriations

For FY 2018-19, the bill requires and includes a General Fund appropriation of \$30,000 to the Department of Human Services.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Human Services

Health Care Policy and Financing
Information Technology

Higher Education
Local Affairs