



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 19-1219

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number:	LLS 19-0933	Date:	June 25, 2019
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Gonzales-Gutierrez Sen. Crowder	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: CHILD WELFARE PERMANENCY PLANNING

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

This bill reorganizes and makes several changes to state laws governing child welfare permanency planning hearings. The bill will increase state and local costs and workload by a minimal amount on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

This bill reorganizes the statues surrounding child welfare permanency hearings and makes changes to clarify the burden of proof at hearings and to incorporate recent federal law changes. Among these various changes, the bill specifies that permanency planning hearings be held every 6 months, rather than every 12 months as under current law.

State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2019-20, the bill will affect workload in the Judicial Department and the Department of Human Services (DHS), as discussed below.

Judicial Department. Workload will increase in the Judicial Department to hold permanency hearings every six months and to update practices with the bill. Similarly, costs and workload for the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel and the Office of the Child's Representative will increase to the extent permanency planning hearings occur more frequently. The fiscal note assumes that current practice closely reflect the changes in the bill and that any increase in workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Department of Human Services. The bill will increase workload in the DHS to update current practices with the bill. It is assumed that any workload increase can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government

To the extent that there are more permanency hearings, workload to county departments of human services and county attorneys will increase to attend and plan for these hearings. Any increase in workload is assumed to be minimal.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 20, 2019, and takes effect August 2, 2019, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Health Care Policy And Financing	Human Services
Judicial	Information Technology	