

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM.

Prime Sponsors: Reps. Singer and Michaelson Jenet

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Fiscal Impact of Bill as Amended to Date

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/18/19.

XXX	No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>new information or technical issues</i>
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>amendment adopted</i> after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared
	Non-Concurrence: JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff disagree about the fiscal impact of the bill

Amendments in This Packet for Consideration by Appropriations Committee

Amendment	Description
J.001	Staff-prepared appropriation amendment
L.002	Bill Sponsor amendment - changes fiscal impact <i>and</i> eliminates need for an appropriation

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill requires but does not contain an appropriation clause.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.001 Staff-prepared amendment **J.001** (attached) increases the net FY 2019-20 General Fund appropriation to the Judicial Department by \$36,891 and indicates that the appropriation is based on the assumption that the Department will require an additional 0.5 FTE. This corresponds to the appropriation indicated in the April 18, 2019, Revised Fiscal Note. The amendment makes these adjustments by increasing the FY 2019-20 Long Bill appropriation to the Office of the State Court Administrator by \$1,586,891 General Fund and reducing the Long Bill appropriation to the Office of the Child's Representative by \$1,550,000 General Fund. It also includes a 0.5 FTE increase for the Office of the State Court Administrator.

L.002 Bill Sponsor amendment **L.002** (attached) eliminates the need for an appropriation for this bill. The amendment moves oversight of CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) programs from the Office of the State Court Administrator to the Office of the Child's

HB19-1282

JBC Staff Analysis

Representative (OCR). The amendment also allows Colorado CASA (the state CASA agency) to allocate state funding among local CASA programs and report the allocation in a verifiable manner, rather than directly assigning the allocation function to the Judicial-branch agency with oversight responsibility. In the view of the OCR and the State Auditor, this change reduces a potential conflict of interest to a level that allows the OCR to oversee CASA programs. The OCR indicates that it can perform these oversight duties within its existing FY 2019-20 Long Bill appropriation, without the need for an additional appropriation in this bill.

If L.002 is adopted, J.001 should not be adopted.

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact with J.001

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2019-20 based on the March 2019 Legislative Council Staff revenue forecast. The budget package leaves approximately \$47.9 million General Fund unallocated. Thus, the General Assembly could appropriate up to \$44.7 million General Fund to fund 2019 legislation and maintain a 7.25 percent General Fund reserve. This bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$36,891 for FY 2019-20, reducing the excess General Fund reserve by \$39,566.