



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0454 Date: February 19, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Ransom; Michaelson-Jenet; Sen. Zenzinger; Smallwood Bill Status: House HHS Fiscal Analyst: Will Clark | 303-866-4720 Will.Clark@state.co.us

Bill Topic: POLICIES & PROCEDURES TO IDENTIFY DOMESTIC ABUSE

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

The bill updates the definition of child abuse and neglect to include exposing children to domestic abuse. The bill minimally increases state workload on an ongoing basis, and makes a one-time state expenditure in FY 2021-22.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2021-22, this bill requires an appropriation of \$2,245 to the Department of Human Services.

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

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 21-1099

Table with 3 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2021-22, Out Year FY 2022-23. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Federal Funds, Total), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

The bill adds exposure to domestic abuse to the definition of child abuse or neglect in state statute. It also requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to promulgate rules to implement assessment policies, procedures, and training for child welfare caseworkers to recognize and assess situations when a child's parent, legal guardian, or custodian exposes a child to domestic abuse.

State Expenditures

This bill increases expenditures in DHS by \$3,454 in FY 2021-22; \$2,245 from the General Fund and \$1,209 from federal funds. The bill also creates a minimal workload increase in DHS and for Judicial child welfare offices beginning in FY 2021-22.

Department of Human Services. In FY 2021-22, DHS will modify its comprehensive child welfare information system, known as Trails, to meet the requirements of the bill. This will require 22 hours of work at \$157 per hour. In addition, DHS will promulgate rules, update instruments and processes, train staff, and monitor the impact of this legislation over time. However, this workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Judicial Child Welfare Offices. The bill may increase guardian ad-litem appointments from the Office of the Child's Representative and attorney appointments from the Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel. The increase of appointments can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government

To the extent the bill increases cases of dependency and neglect, workload to local county departments of human services will increase.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2021-22, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$2,245 to the Department of Human Services.

State and Local Government Contacts

Child Welfare
Judicial

Counties
Law

Human Services
Information Technology