



Legislative Council Staff  
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

# Fiscal Note

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 21-0399	<b>Date:</b>	March 15, 2021
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Sen. Sonnenberg Rep. Holtorf	<b>Bill Status:</b>	Senate Education
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**Bill Topic:** CHILD ABUSE REPORTING INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

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

The bill makes changes to public school official reporting protocols for suspected child abuse or neglect. The bill increases state and local expenditures on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** For FY 2021-22, the bill requires an appropriation of \$58,247 to the Department of Human Services.

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

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 21-140**

		Budget Year FY 2021-22	Out Year FY 2022-23
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>	General Fund	\$38,443	\$20,724
	Federal Funds	\$19,804	\$10,676
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$58,247</b>	<b>\$31,400</b>
<b>Transfers</b>		-	-
<b>TABOR Refund</b>		-	-

## **Summary of Legislation**

This bill requires that known or suspected child abuse or neglect reported by a public school official or employee include information about whether the child has an individualized education program (IEP). In instances where it is determined that the child is not in imminent danger, the bill requires public school officials to hold an advisory meeting to address the IEP or safety plan with one of the primary teachers of the child, prior to reporting the suspected abuse or neglect.

This bill also authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) to adopt rules to flag children who are identified as being neuroatypical in neglect and abuse reports.

## **State Expenditures**

This bill increases expenditures for the DHS by \$58,247 in FY 2021-22 and \$31,400 in FY 2022-23 and future years. Costs will be paid from the General Fund and federal funds. DHS may also have increased workload to engage in new rule-making as authorized by the bill. These impacts are described below.

**Computer programming and maintenance.** The bill increases expenditures by \$58,247 for programming changes to the Colorado comprehensive child welfare information system, known as TRAILS. This work includes 371 hours of work, at \$157 per hour to create a notation or flag that will indicate if a child who is the subject of a child abuse or neglect report or inquiry has been identified as a child who is neuroatypical. Ongoing maintenance costs for the system change is estimated at \$31,400 per year, which includes 200 hours of work at \$157 per hour for help desk support, business analyst work, development and quality assurance.

**Rulemaking.** The bill authorizes DHS to make changes to rules concerning when a child care staff member is required to report child abuse and neglect and when to flag a child as being neuroatypical in child abuse and neglect reports. This task is absorbable within existing resources.

## **School Districts**

The bill will increase workload for schools and school districts to include more information when reporting child abuse and neglect. The bill will also require additional staff time for meetings between teachers and other public school officials.

## **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 appropriations of \$58,247 to the Department of Human Services. Of this total:

- \$38,443 is from the General Fund; and
- \$19,804 is from federal funds

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties	Education	Human Services
Information Technology	Judicial	Law
School Districts		