



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0399 Date: June 28, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Sonnenberg Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: CHILD ABUSE REPORTING INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD

Summary of Fiscal Impact:
State Revenue [ ] TABOR Refund [ ]
State Expenditure [x] Local Government [x]
State Transfer [ ] Statutory Public Entity [ ]

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

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

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 21-140

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

## **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 was postponed indefinitely by the Senate Education Committee on March 17, 2021.

## **State Appropriations**

For FY 2021-22, the bill would have required appropriations of \$58,247 to the Department of Human Services. Of this total:

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

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties	Education	Human Services
Information Technology	Judicial	Law
School Districts		