

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB 2500

**House of Origin**    ☐ Introduced    ☒ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:**    Ward, Jeion A.

**3. Committee:** Appropriations

**4. Title:** Foster care; local department to ensure each child is equipped with luggage while in foster care

**5. Summary:** As substituted, the proposed legislation requires the Department of Social Services to take steps to identify and work with faith-based organizations, volunteer, private, and community-based organizations to develop and implement the “A Place of My Own” program which will seek and accept donations and coordinate the distribution of luggage for children in foster care. The department may also apply for and accept grants, gifts, donations and bequests to support the activities of the program.

The bill also creates a special non-reverting fund on the books of the Comptroller. This fund, called “A Place of My Own” would consist of grants, donations and bequests from public and private sources and any funds appropriated by the General Assembly. Such moneys would be deposited into the state treasury to the credit of the fund and would be used solely to support the activities of the program. This fund would be administered by the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services.

**6. Fiscal impact estimates are preliminary.**

**Expenditure Impact\*:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2009	-	-	-
2010	\$94,859	0.6	General
	\$63,240	0.4	Nongeneral
2011	\$55,762	0.6	General
	\$37,174	0.4	Nongeneral
2012	\$55,762	0.6	General
	\$37,174	0.4	Nongeneral
2013	\$55,762	0.6	General
	\$37,174	0.4	Nongeneral
2014	\$55,762	0.6	General
	\$37,174	0.4	Nongeneral
2015	\$55,762	0.6	General
	\$37,174	0.4	Nongeneral

\*The expenditure estimates do not account for the increased workload that could be experienced in local departments of social services (see item 8)

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 337

- 8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill will require \$158,099 (\$94,859 GF) the first year and \$92,936 (\$55,762 GF) each year thereafter to develop the “A Place of My Own” program. It is assumed that the Department of Social Services would require a classified position in the central office (with an estimated salary of \$62,511) to develop and implement the program. Specifically, this position would be charged with administrative duties such as: writing collection/distribution procedures; applying for grants; managing the fund and monitoring the program’s outcomes. It is further assumed that for the program to be effective, it would be necessary for the department to print and distribute outreach material (such as brochures) each year. The department estimates that approximately 100,000 brochures (at a cost of \$0.60 per brochure, or \$60,000) would be needed to canvass the state. It is also unclear as to whether there would need to be an independent audit of this fund; should that be the case, the estimated cost would increase.

No specific local costs can be identified at this time; however, once the program is implemented it is estimated that local staff time and effort will be required to work with various local non-profit organizations. In addition, there may be some cost associated with the storage of donated and purchased luggage. However, it is uncertain as to whether adequate storage would be available at local offices or if the local offices would need to rent a storage facility.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:**

Department of Social Services  
Local departments of social services

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 2/5/2009

**Document:** G:\2009 Fiscal Year\EFIS\HB2500h1.Doc