

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB81

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Cole

3. **Committee:** Committee Referral Pending

4. **Title:** Foster care records; retention and destruction.

5. **Summary:** Foster care records; retention and destruction. Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Commissioner of Social Services shall reserve all records related to foster care cases for a period of 22 years after the date of birth of the child who is the subject of the foster care case.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** None.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** Current Board of Social Services' regulations require local Departments of Social Services to retain foster care records for children reunited with their families for 22 years from date of birth; for cases involving children not reunited with their families, records are retained indefinitely. This bill reduces the record retention period for all foster care records to 22 years from date of birth. While the Department of Social Services realizes that there may be a small one-time cost for destroying current records that fall outside of the 22-year window, there may also be a small savings realized for a reduction in storage space. The Department believes the one-time costs and potential savings would be minimal and would not require any addition funds.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Social Services and local Departments of Social Services

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:**