

**Department of Planning and Budget
2017 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: HB2215-ER

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

2. Patron: Toscano

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Adoption assistance for children with special needs.

5. Summary: Moves the requirement that a child be a citizen or legal resident of the United States from the definition of "child with special needs" to the eligibility criteria for the adoptive parents of such child to receive adoption assistance. The bill modifies the exception to the eligibility requirement that efforts be made to place the child in an adoptive home without the provision of adoption assistance to include consideration of the child's best interest due to factors such as the child's development of significant emotional ties with his foster parents while in their care, provided that the foster parents wish to adopt the child. Under current law, the exception is limited to situations in which the child has developed emotional ties with his foster parents and the foster parents wish to adopt the child. The bill modifies other requirements for a child with special needs to receive certain types of adoption assistance and for a child who is between the ages of 18 and 21 to receive adoption assistance. The bill also provides that a representative of the Department of Social Services shall negotiate all adoption assistance agreements with both existing and prospective adoptive parents on behalf of local departments of social services.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation clarifies sections of the Code to bring them into compliance with federal law. This bill does not have a fiscal impact.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Social Services, local Departments of Social Services, Office of Children's Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: