

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1235

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

2. Patron: Hugo

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Child protective services; verification of custody.

5. Summary: Requires local departments of social services, when responding to a report or complaint of suspected child abuse or neglect by conducting an investigation, to verify the physical and legal custody arrangements for the child.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 341.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2018	-	-	-
2019	\$224,436	-	General
2020	\$211,351	-	General
2021	\$211,351	-	General
2022	\$211,351	-	General
2023	\$211,351	-	General
2024	\$211,351	-	General

* There is a local match increase of \$41,169 in FY 2019 and \$38,768 in FY 2020 and each year thereafter.

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation proposes that in every Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation, the local department of social services (LDSS) will be required to verify a child's physical and legal custody arrangements. LDSS staff will need to conduct an investigation to ascertain information that is not readily available in any existing database or other location accessible to LDSS staff. Additional time will be required of the LDSS staff to verify this information.

During 2017, approximately 17,000 children and youth were part of a CPS investigation. While the time required for local staff to verify physical and legal custody of a child will vary, the Department estimates that an average of an additional 15 minutes per child is needed for a total of 4,250 hours (17,000 children investigated x .25 hours) of staff time each

year. This estimate assumes that verification consists of the completion of a form and questioning the family to gather information.

Given 1,500 productive hours per local staff annually, the equivalent of approximately three (4,250/1,500) additional local department staff is required. The average annual cost, including salary, benefits, and nonpersonal services, of employing a local CPS worker used for this analysis is \$88,535 for a total estimated cost of \$265,605 (3 x \$88,535) for the first year and \$250,119 (3 x \$83,373) each year thereafter. One-time costs of \$15,486 for new employee on-boarding are included in the first year totals. General fund appropriation of \$224,436 in FY 2019 and \$211,351 in FY 2020 and each year thereafter are needed to verify the child's physical and legal custody arrangements required by this legislation, for all CPS investigations. Local match requirements at 15.5 percent equal \$41,169 in FY 2019 and \$38,768 in FY 2020.

There are no unobligated federal funding sources available to the Department for CPS activities.

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.