

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1429

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

2. Patron: Carroll Foy

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Department of Social Services; collection of data regarding substance abuse.

5. Summary: Provides that whenever the primary reason for removing a child from his home by a local board of social services is categorized as substance abuse by his parent or guardian, including removal due to in utero drug exposure, the Department of Social Services shall, to the extent possible, collect and record information regarding the specific drugs taken by the parent or guardian. The bill requires the Department to develop a process and system to collect, collate, and report such data by July 1, 2019, and to implement such process and system by July 1, 2020.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 348.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2018	-	-	-
2019	\$86,757	-	General
	\$40,743	-	Nongeneral
2020	\$28,919	-	General
	\$13,581	-	Nongeneral
2021	-	-	-
2022	-	-	-
2023	-	-	-
2024	-	-	-

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation directs the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop and implement a process to collect, collate, and report data regarding substance abuse by a parent or guardian that results in the removal of a child from the home. If the primary reason for the removal was due to substance abuse by the child's parent or guardian, DSS would be required to collect and record information regarding the specific drugs taken by the parent or guardian. This process must be developed by July 1, 2019 and implemented by July 1, 2020.

Implementation would require extensive modifications to the Department's current child welfare information system (OASIS), which DSS is in the process of replacing. The agency estimates it would take 1,700 hours of contractor programming time (average hourly rate of \$100) for a total cost of \$170,000 (1,700 hours x \$100 rate per hour). The OASIS system would be modified to include picklist boxes where the local worker chooses parental substance abuse as the reason for removing the child. The local worker would then record which drug(s) the parent was abusing. Because a high volume of cases involve polysubstance abuse, multiple picklists are needed to allow the worker to accurately record this information. The results of 1,700 hours of programming would include: six OASIS screens, four reports, and three forms.

Total funding for this proposal would be a one-time cost increase of \$170,000, with \$127,500 of this funding appropriated in FY 2019 and \$42,500 in FY 2020 (\$54,324 federal funds and \$115,676 general fund). Title IV-E eligible costs (63.91 percent of the cost) are funded with 50 percent federal funds and 50 percent general fund. Any costs that do not qualify as Title IV-E eligible are funded with additional general fund dollars.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Social Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None

11. Other Comments: Based on current bill language, the module to track substance abuse usage will need to be built into the OASIS system. However, the Department of Social Services is in the process of developing a new child welfare information system to replace the current system (OASIS), for which the agency can receive 50 percent federal Title IV-E funding. The ability to identify the substances being abused by parents in CPS cases will be built into the new system; however, that functionality is not expected to be complete before the date of implementation, as required by this legislation.