

Department of Planning and Budget

2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1962-ER

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Gooditis

3. **Committee:** Passed Both Houses

4. **Title:** Foster care; termination of parental rights; relatives and fictive kin.

5. **Summary:** Requires local departments of social services and licensed child-placing agencies to involve in the development of a child's foster care plan the child's relatives and fictive kin who are interested in the child's welfare. The bill requires that a child 12 years of age or older be involved in the development of his foster care plan; under current law, a child's involvement is mandatory upon reaching 14 years of age. The bill contains other amendments to provisions governing foster care and termination of parental rights that encourage the placement of children with relatives and fictive kin.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2021	-	-	-
2022	\$5,063	-	General
	\$1,937	-	nongeneral
2023	-	-	-
2024	-	-	-
2025	-	-	-
2026	-	-	-
2027	-	-	-

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill removes the addition of fictive kin to § 16.1-281 of the Code of Virginia in the subsection that outlines requirements for a court order when custody of a child is transferred to a relative. The legislation also removes the additional requirements in § 16.1-283 of the Code of Virginia surrounding reasonable efforts that must be documented in the foster care plan in order for a court to accept a petition for the termination of parental rights. Further, the legislation rearranges the proposed language in § 63.2-910.2 of the Code of Virginia so that it does not outline specific exceptions to the termination of parental rights, but instead provides examples of exceptions.

This legislation would require modifications to the child welfare information systems, OASIS and Compass Mobile. These system updates are estimated at \$7,000 (\$5,063 general

fund and \$1,937 nongeneral fund) in FY 2022. Although this is a minimal fiscal impact, the Department of Social Services (DSS) maintains that it is unable to absorb the systems costs within existing appropriation.

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.