

## Department of Social Services 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB 850

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

**2. Patron:**        Orrock, R.

**3. Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

**4. Title:**        Foster Care Code of Ethics Agreement

**5. Summary:** Section 63.2-900 requires the local boards of social services to enter into a written agreement with foster parents or other custodians prior to placing a child in a foster home or residential facility. The proposed legislation requires this agreement to include the mutual responsibilities of foster parents, foster care workers, and directors of child placing agencies, including local departments. The bill also requires the Board of Social Services (board) to develop and promulgate regulations implementing the provisions of the bill with the assistance of an advisory committee comprised of representatives from foster and adoptive families, local boards and departments, child-placing agencies, judicial staff, youth in foster and adoptive homes, and other advocates or experts as the board deems necessary. Specifically, the board is required to:

- Identify mutual responsibilities of foster parents, foster care workers, and directors of child-placing agencies.
- Develop a code of ethics.
- Develop a statewide mediation procedure for foster and adoptive families.
- Develop a statewide advocacy procedure.

**6. Fiscal impact is minimal.** (See Fiscal Implications)

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill will require the board to form an advisory committee of representatives from foster and adoptive families, local boards and departments, child placing agencies, judicial staff, youth in foster and adoptive homes, and other advocates that the board deems necessary. The committee will need one consultant to assist them in making recommendations to the board concerning the development of a code of ethics, a mediation procedure, and an advocacy procedure. Additional costs will include one part time administrative position and printing costs.

For the purpose of this analysis, it is assumed that the committee will include 40 representatives and have nine meetings to develop recommendations for the Board. The national average fee for a child welfare consultant is \$1,000 per day and the administrative position needed is a pay band 3 with an average cost of \$28,435. There will also be

additional printing costs of \$900 for the meetings. Based on these assumptions, there would be a one-time cost of \$38,335, which can be absorbed with 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

**Date:** 1/18/2008

**Document:** G:\2008 Fiscal Year\08 Session\FIS\HB850.Doc

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources