

## Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB2517

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

**2. Patron:** Gooditis

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

**4. Title:** Child abuse and neglect; mandatory reporters.

**5. Summary:** Adds to the list of persons who are required to report suspected child abuse and neglect any person 18 years of age or older who (i) volunteers with any public or private organization responsible for the care, custody, control, or education of children; (ii) is associated with or employed by any public or private organization responsible for the education of children; (iii) is a coach, director, employee, or volunteer with a private organization or team that provides extracurricular activities to children; (iv) is a volunteer of a public or private day camp, youth center, youth recreation program, or youth educational program; (v) is an administrator or employee of a youth educational program; or (vi) administers, maintains, or services computing or storage systems or components, including physical hardware, network systems, or cloud-based systems for a fee.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:**

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2019	-	-
2020	\$1,365,736	general
2021	\$1,365,736	general
2022	\$1,365,736	general
2023	\$1,365,736	general
2024	\$1,365,736	general
2025	\$1,365,736	general

\* There is an annual local match increase of \$250,520 for every one percent increase in CPS investigations or assessments, as a result of this bill.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This legislation expands the list of mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect to include: volunteers over the age of 18 years of age with organizations responsible for the care, custody, control, or education of children; coaches, directors, or other persons 18 years of age or older employed by or volunteering with a private organization or team that provides extracurricular activities to children; volunteers 18 years

of age or older at youth education programs; and any person who administers, maintains, or services computing or storage systems or components, including physical hardware, network systems, or cloud-based systems for a fee.

It is unknown how many new Child Protective Services (CPS) assessments and/or investigations will be necessary as a result of the expanded definition pursuant to this legislation. However, considering the large number of new mandatory reporters resulting from this bill, a cost estimate is shown based on a one percent increase in referrals and the corresponding assessments or investigations.

During FY 2018, the Department of Social Services (DSS) received 104,812 CPS referrals, of which 57,299 or 55 percent (57,299/104,812) were investigated. Assuming the number of CPS referrals increases by one percent due to the legislation, it is estimated that LDSS will receive 1,048 (104,812 x 1%) new referral/reports. Since 55 percent of referrals resulted in either a Family Assessment or CPS investigation, 576 (1,048 x 55%) new assessments or investigations are also projected.

For every one percent increase in referrals as a result of this bill, approximately 576 new CPS assessments/investigations will be needed annually. The agency estimates that each family assessment or investigation takes approximately 50 hours of staff time to respond. This would require the equivalent of 19.2 ([576 cases x 50 hours]/1500 productive hours per local staff) additional local departments of social services (LDSS) positions.

The average annual cost, including salary, benefits, and nonpersonal services, of employing a local CPS worker used for this analysis is \$84,180, for a total estimated annual cost of \$1,616,256 (19.2 x \$84,180). From this total estimated cost, general fund of \$1,365,736 and a local match requirement or 15.5 percent or \$250,520 each year is required for a one percent estimated increase in referrals resulting from this legislation.

Additionally, training materials will need to be updated to include the new class of mandatory reporters. The agency believes these costs will be minimal and can be absorbed within the current 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.