

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1051

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

2. **Patron:** Levine

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

4. **Title:** Child-placing agencies; conscience clause; discrimination.

5. **Summary:** Repeals provisions that allowed child-placing agencies to refuse to perform, assist with, counsel, recommend, consent to, refer, or participate in any child placements when the proposed placement would violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies. The bill also prohibits the Department of Social Services from contracting with or providing funds, directly or indirectly, to any child-placing agency that, in making decisions regarding the placement of a child, discriminates against the child or otherwise eligible prospective foster or adoptive parents on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or status as a veteran.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill could reduce the number of available foster homes, which would result in longer placements in congregate care for those children awaiting foster home placements. The cost of congregate care is significantly higher than the cost of foster home placements. However, the Department of Social Services is not aware of any licensed child-placing agencies that invoke the conscience clause and does not expect that this change would have any significant impact on the availability of foster homes. Therefore, it is assumed that this bill does not have a fiscal impact on either the Department of Social Services or local departments of social services. The legislation does not address placements that are being funded by the Children's Services Act (CSA).

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Social Service, local departments of social services

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** None.