

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1744-H1

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

2. Patron: Carr

3. Committee: Passed the House

4. Title: Adoption and foster care; home study reciprocity.

5. Summary: Provides that home studies conducted by a local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency for the purpose of placing a child in a foster home or with an adoptive family shall, on and after January 1, 2024, be transferable between all localities, local boards, and licensed child-placing agencies within the Commonwealth, subject to any time limitations or other requirements imposed by law or State Board of Social Services regulations. The bill also requires all home studies to be conducted in accordance with the Mutual Family Assessment home study template and any addenda thereto developed by the Department of Social Services.

The second enactment clause provides an effective date of January 1, 2024.

The third enactment clause allows the Board to promulgate regulations.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Current practice allows the transfer of home studies and all related documents except background checks between local departments of social services (LDSS). Transfers between licensed child placing agencies (LCPA) and LDSS are also currently allowed; however, home studies are often written for different purposes and focus on different content, so LCPAs may often choose to write their own home study. This bill would require that home studies be transferable between localities, local boards of social services, and licensed child placing agencies within the Commonwealth. If it is assumed that the market rate for home studies conducted by local boards or LCPAs is paid by the person or persons requesting the home study, then fiscal impacts to the Department of Social Services (DSS) or local departments will be minimal.

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.