

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2291

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

2. Patron: Brewer

3. Committee: Committee Referral Pending

4. Title: Infants left in newborn safety devices or left with hospital or emergency medical services agency.

5. Summary: Establishes protocols for the placement of infants who are left in newborn safety devices or who are left with any personnel of a hospital or emergency medical services agency. Under the bill, a hospital or emergency medical services agency that receives an infant left in a newborn safety device or left with any personnel of a hospital or emergency medical services agency shall immediately transport the infant to a hospital for a physical examination and contact the local board of social services to inform it that an infant has been left at a hospital or emergency medical services agency and of the location of the hospital to which the infant was transported. The bill directs local boards of social services to contact licensed child-placing agencies from a rotating list maintained by the local board to take custody of the infant. Under the bill, the hospital or emergency medical services agency that receives the infant shall complete the Commonwealth's program of medical assistance services application process on behalf of the infant. The bill also describes the requirements for licensed child-placing agencies to be placed on the rotating list maintained by the local board of social services.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill requires local departments of social services (LDSS) to maintain a list of eligible licensed child placing agencies (LCPA) and make referrals to the next LCPA on the list within 24 hours, in the event that an infant is left in a newborn safety device or with personnel of a hospital or emergency medical services agency. According to the Department of Social Services (DSS), 21 infants in total have been surrendered in this way between 2018 and 2022. Infants that meet the criteria for placement with a LCPA under this bill will not be placed in traditional foster care under the supervision of a local department; therefore, this legislation will not a fiscal impact on DSS or local departments.

Additionally, the bill requires the hospital or emergency medical services agency to complete the Commonwealth's program of medical assistance services application on behalf of the infant. If eligible, any physical examination and treatment costs provided to the infant by the hospital or emergency medical services agency can be covered by the Commonwealth's program of medical assistance services. The Department of Medical Assistance Services does not expect a fiscal impact.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Social Services, local departments of social services, Department of Medical Assistance Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary:

11. Other Comments: