

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB23H1

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

**2. Patron:** Locke

**3. Committee:** Courts of Justice

**4. Title:** Juveniles; adjudication of delinquency.

**5. Summary:** Amends the definition of “delinquent child” as defined in the Code to include a child 11 years of age or older who has committed a delinquent act. Amends the definition of a child in need of services to include a child younger than 11 years of age who has committed a delinquent act. The bill provides that if a juvenile younger than 11 is found to have committed a delinquent act, the juvenile shall not be proceeded upon as delinquent, but the court may make any orders of disposition authorized by the Code.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Department of Juvenile Justice, there is no anticipated fiscal impact on the agency’s operations as a result of the proposal.

According to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), this legislation may result in minimal cost avoidance as juveniles under 11 years of age would not be required to stand trial, and therefore, would not require restoration of competency services. DBHDS estimates that this would result in a reduction of ten percent of the current caseload, or approximately 25 cases per year. However, because of the demand for competency restoration services, DBHDS does not anticipate any savings from current appropriation levels. The bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on Courts.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and Courts.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.