



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0788	Date:	April 16, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Fields Rep. Joseph	Bill Status:	Senate Health & Human Services
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Bill Topic: **ASSIGNMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT FOSTER YOUTH**

Summary of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
Fiscal Impact:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill modifies child placement fees and the assignment of child support for children in foster care. It minimally impacts state workload beginning in FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Currently, when a child is placed with a public agency, a court order must require the child's parent to pay a fee that covers the costs of a guardian ad litem and residential care for the child, with the fee based on their ability to pay. The bill removes the requirement for a court order for this fee, and instead allows a delegate child support enforcement unit to impose the fee when approved by a county child welfare unit. It also removes the requirement that the fee be based on the parent's ability to pay and that the payment must cover the costs of a guardian ad litem.

The bill also affects the assignment of child support for foster care. Current law requires the Department of Human Services (CDHS) to reimburse for child support for the out-of-home placement costs for children placed in foster care. The bill restricts these assignments to current child support obligations only, excluding previously accrued amounts. Additionally, a child support enforcement unit can enforce these child support obligations, if a county child welfare unit determines a referral is appropriate.

State Expenditures

According to the CDHS, current rules already align with the requirements of the bill. Therefore, the bill is not expected to significantly impact the operations of CDHS or county child welfare agencies. Starting in FY 2024-25, workload may decrease in the trial courts to the extent there are fewer orders for child support for children in foster care. These impacts are expected to be minimal. For informational purposes, there has been, on average, about 2,864 cases filings per year regarding child support for children in the child welfare system.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Child Welfare

Counties

Human Services

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).