

**JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis**  
**Senate Appropriations Committee**

Concerning changes to practices related to federal benefits for youth in foster care, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

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**Prime Sponsors:**

Representatives Gilchrist; Brown  
Senators Daugherty; Michaelson Jenet

**Date Prepared:**

April 30, 2025

**JBC Analyst:**

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**Fiscal Impacts**

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Appropriation Already Added to Bill, Amendment in Packet

Significant Cost Increase in the Third Year

**Fiscal Note Status**

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The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/28/25.

**No Change:** Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

The Health and Human Services Committee Report (04/30/25) includes an amendment to the bill. However, Legislative Council Staff and JBC Staff agree that the amendment does not change the fiscal impact of the bill.

**Amendments in This Packet**

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J.002                      Staff-prepared appropriation amendment

**Current Appropriations Clause in Bill**

The bill includes an appropriation clause that includes \$109,179 General Fund for the Department of Human Services for FY 2025-26. The appropriation reflects 1.0 FTE.

## Description of Amendments in This Packet

### J.002

Staff amendment **J.002** (attached) removes the current appropriation clause in the bill to align with the Revised Fiscal Note.

## Points to Consider

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### Future Fiscal Impact

The bill is projected to require General Fund appropriations of \$1.4 million in FY 2027-28, and \$1.1 million on an ongoing basis.

### Future Budget Processes

The bill is projected to increase county costs by \$1.6 million beginning in FY 2027-28. Up to 80.0 percent of county child welfare costs are paid by the State General Fund. The Revised Fiscal Note projects \$1.3 million in out-year General Fund obligations for this purpose.

The most recent report by the Department of Human Services on April 11, 2025, indicates that the State share of child welfare funding is \$21.9 million General Fund below the amount required to cover 80.0 percent of actual county expenditures in FY 2024-25. This amount does not account for increased service requirements that may result from legislation.

JBC Staff anticipates that the out-year costs identified by the Final Fiscal Note for the bill will be included in the Department's budget requests in future years. The extent to which the out-year fiscal impact of the bill is borne by counties or the General Fund will be subject to future budget decisions made by the General Assembly. If additional General Fund is not provided through the budget process, the State share of child welfare costs will continue to fall below 80.0 percent of State responsibility.