



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 3701 Amended by the House of Representatives on January 25, 2018
Author: Putnam
Subject: Foster Care
Requestor: Senate General
RFA Analyst(s): Shuford
Impact Date: February 20, 2018

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditure	\$0	\$0
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds as the additional notifications to non-licensed relatives, criminal background checks, annual reporting requirements, and amendments to the trafficking in persons language requires the Department of Social Services to perform activities that are generally conducted in the normal course of agency business.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by the House of Representatives on January 25, 2018

State Expenditure

This bill directs that when the Department of Social Services (DSS) places a child with a relative who is a non-licensed foster parent, the department shall inform the relative of the procedures for licensure and the benefits of licensure, to include eligibility for financial assistance and supportive services, and be informed of the risk that the relative may be ineligible for assistance and services if the relative is not licensed as a foster parent. Also, nonsafety requirements of the Kinship Foster Care Program application may be waived by the department when waivers would be in the best interests of the child.

Additionally, the bill details requirements for DSS in ensuring that no child in foster care may be placed with a person or anyone 18 years or older residing in a home if they have been convicted of a criminal offense for child abuse or neglect or other enumerated crimes. The additional requirements include the following:

- Checking the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Other relevant department records
- County sex offender registries
- Law enforcement records for the previous five years from current and past jurisdictions.

DSS shall add to its annual report to the Governor and General Assembly information on the following:

- The number of children placed with a relative or another person pursuant to a safety plan
- The number of children placed with a relative licensed or not licensed as a kinship foster parent
- The number of days before a license is granted for each case in which a relative requests to be licensed as a kinship foster parent
- The number of relatives who apply to be licensed as a kinship foster parent and request a waiver of nonsafety licensing requirements who are subsequently granted a license with a waiver.

The bill further amends the definition of child abuse or neglect or harm to include when a child is a victim of trafficking in persons, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for a child's welfare. This will allow DSS to comply with the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Reauthorization Act and to receive all reports involving the trafficking of a child in order to provide services and determine placement of the child. Finally, the bill states that a parent or guardian whose acts or omissions are not the proximate cause of a child being a victim of trafficking in persons shall not be indicated against in a DSS investigation or court case.

DSS indicates that the additional notifications to non-licensed relatives, criminal background checks, annual reporting requirements, and amendments to the trafficking in persons language requires the department to perform activities that are generally conducted in the normal course of agency business. As a result, this bill does not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director