



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0191 Amended by the Senate on February 19, 2019
Author: Shealy
Subject: Kinship Foster Care Program
Requestor: Senate Family and Veterans Services
RFA Analyst(s): Mitchell
Impact Date: March 1, 2019 Updated for Additional Agency Response

Fiscal Impact Summary

The bill will increase General Fund expenditures by \$3,235,353 and Federal Fund expenditures by \$470,532, beginning in FY 2019-20, for monthly board payments to households in which fictive kin become licensed under the Kinship Foster Care Program.

This fiscal impact statement has been updated based on a response from the Department of Social Services.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Updated for Additional Agency Response on March 1, 2019

Amended by the Senate on February 19, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill as amended allows fictive kin to be foster parents under the Kinship Foster Care Program. Fictive kin is defined as an individual not related by birth, adoption, or marriage to a child but who has an emotionally significant relationship with the child or the child's family. The bill enables the Department of Social Services to consider fictive kin eligible for licensing as a kinship foster parent. The bill provides that if a relative or fictive kin is not licensed as a kinship foster parent, the department may still place the child with the relative or fictive kin without the licensure requirement if certain criteria are met. In addition, a relative or fictive kin with whom a child has been placed and who has begun the licensure process shall have the same legal status and access to services as a licensed kinship foster care provider.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) indicates that the bill will increase General Fund expenditures by \$3,325,353 and Federal Fund expenditures by \$470,532 for monthly board payments to households in which fictive kin become licensed under the Kinship Foster Care Program. DSS indicates that there are approximately 1,000 children in the care of relatives and fictive kin who would become eligible for licensure as foster parents with the Kinship Foster Care Program. Under the provisions of this bill, all 1,000 of these households would be entitled to monthly board payments, ranging from \$404 to \$535 each month, depending on the age of the child. DSS reports that the licensure process is completed within approximately four months. Monthly board payments would continue at the same rate after licensure for the duration of the child's time in the care of the licensed fictive kin. However, 34 percent of households licensed through the Kinship Foster Care Program qualify for federal funds through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. The attached table shows a breakdown of board payments by licensure status, child age, and Title IV-E eligibility under this proposal.

		General Funds	Federal Funds
Before obtaining licensure			
Total unlicensed kinship placements	1,000		
Total unlicensed kinship placements ages 0-5	398		
Monthly board rate payment ages 0-5	\$535		
Total unlicensed kinship placements ages 6-12	283		
Monthly board rate payment ages 6-12	\$469		
Total unlicensed kinship placements ages 13+	319		
Monthly board rate payment ages 13+	\$404		
Total potential monthly board rate payments	\$474,486		
Average number of months to licensure	4		
Total potential board payments before licensure	\$1,897,942	\$1,897,942	
After obtaining licensure			
Monthly board payments after licensure	1,000		
Total new kinship placements ages 0-5	398		
Monthly board rate payment ages 0-5	\$535		
Total new kinship placements ages 6-12	283		
Monthly board rate payment ages 6-12	\$469		
Total new kinship placements ages 13+	319		
Monthly board rate payment ages 13+	\$404		
Total potential monthly board rate payments	\$474,486		
Average number of months in foster care	4		
Grand total board payments after licensure	\$1,897,942		
Total Title IV-E eligible (average eligibility rate 34.81%)	\$660,674		
Non Title IV-E eligible	\$1,237,269	\$1,237,269	
Title IV-E federal portion at FMAP rate (71.22%)	\$470,532		\$470,532
State match portion (28.78%)	\$190,142	\$190,142	
Grand total		\$3,325,353	\$470,532

This fiscal impact statement has been updated based on a response from the Department of Social Services.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A

Amended by Senate Family and Veterans Services on February 13, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill as amended allows fictive kin to be foster parents under the Kinship Foster Care Program. Fictive kin is defined as an individual not related by birth, adoption, or marriage to a child but who has an emotionally significant relationship with the child or the child's family. The bill enables the Department of Social Services to consider fictive kin eligible for licensing as a kinship foster parent. The bill provides that if a relative or fictive kin is not licensed as a kinship foster parent, the department may still place the child with the relative or fictive kin without the licensure requirement if certain criteria are met. In addition, a relative or fictive kin with whom a child has been placed and who has begun the licensure process shall have the same legal status and access to services as a licensed kinship foster care provider.

The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the Department of Social Services.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director