Present law provides, when a report alleging abuse or neglect is determined to be justified by DCFS, the individual who is the subject of the determination may make a formal written request to the division of administrative law for an administrative appeal of the justified determination, in accordance with the procedures promulgated by DCFS.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that DCFS shall provide a written notice to the individual in clear, concise, and understandable language that is easy to read, containing all of the following:

1. An explanation of the determination, including the consequences of the determination.
2. The individual's right to an administrative appeal and the specific procedure for requesting an appeal, including the deadline.
3. The name and contact information of a DCFS representative the individual may contact for additional information.

Proposed law provides that the notice shall be sent by certified mail.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in DCFS incurring costs related to one time computer system changes in FY 23 ($240 K) and ongoing costs related to postage ($46,592). The cost will be paid with 75% SGF and 25% Federal Funds from Title IV-E.

Proposed law provides that DCFS shall notify individuals by certified mail when a report alleging abuse or neglect is determined to be justified by DCFS. Each year, DCFS determines that approximately 7,820 abuse cases are justified. Of these cases, approximately 500 individuals request an appeal.

$43,792 7,820 certified letters with return receipt @ $5.60 each
$ 2,800 500 due process appeal letters with return receipt @ $5.60 each
$46,592

DCFS anticipates hiring an Administrative Coordinator at a salary of $34 K plus related benefits to input data into the system and track mail deliveries. The LFO cannot corroborate that the proposed law's requirements will create a workload level sufficient to require a full time employee. To the extent that existing employees are used, personnel cost will be mitigated. Therefore, this cost is not reflected in the total above.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.