



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 41** SLS 25RS 80  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.: **w/ PROP SEN COMM AMD**  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 22, 2025	7:31 PM	<b>Author:</b> BARROW
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Department of Children and Family Services		<b>Analyst:</b> Tamiko Stroud
<b>Subject:</b> Provides relative to child welfare		

CHILDREN OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Provides relative to child welfare. (8/1/25)

The proposed legislation prohibits a person whose name is recorded on the state central registry (SCR) on or after August 1, 2018 from participating in the governance of certain child-related services and being hired by certain school boards, nonpublic schools, and school systems. Proposed legislation prohibits certain school boards, nonpublic schools, and school systems from knowingly hiring persons placed on SCR on or after August 1, 2018. Proposed legislation requires certain school boards to dismiss certain school employees whose name is recorded on the SCR on or after August 1, 2025. Proposed legislation requires all nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs to be licensed as early learning centers and apply by January 1, 2026. Proposed legislation requires compliance with child safety and welfare minimum standards no later than October 1, 2025. Proposed legislation requires the Dept. of Education (LDOE) to publish all child-related business violations on their website. Proposed legislation changes the definition of certain terms. Proposed legislation provides additional certain circumstances in which DCFS or local/state law enforcement must be contacted by mandatory reporters and requires certain action by DCFS and local/state law enforcement upon the receipt of a mandatory reporter's report of abuse. Proposed legislation does not require school employees to pay certain fees. Proposed legislation will become effective upon the governor's signature or legislative approval.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
Local Funds	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed legislation will result in a significant increase in annual expenditures as a result of additional staffing and resources required in two (2) separate agencies, including \$877,792 SGF for LA Dept. of Education (LDOE) and an indeterminable increase in the Department of Children and Family Services.

**LA Department of Education (LDOE)**

The LDOE reports the proposed legislation will require an expenditure increase of \$877,792 SGF in FY 26 to fund eight (8) authorized positions to monitor and inspect the 254 nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs currently unlicensed as early learning centers.

The department reports the need for six (6) Licensing Specialists I/II to conduct inspections and monitor an additional 254 nonpublic programs; one (1) Licensing Supervisor to train specialists, review inspection reports for accuracy, and conduct onsite quality monitoring; and one (1) Licensing Consultant to review initial, renewal, and changing licensing applications and conduct consultations regarding compliance with LA Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations. The department reports the estimated number of employees was based on a caseload of approximately fifty (50) sites per Licensing Specialist, five (5) Licensing Specialists per Licensing Supervisor, and two hundred and fifty (250) sites per Licensing Consultant. The department reports an additional Licensing Specialist is required to accommodate the distance between early learning sites as the geographic spread can require additional staff members. See the expenditure table on page 2 that reflects LDOE's projected expenditures.

LDOE Expenditures	Costs
<b>Positions (include salaries and related benefits)</b>	
Licensing Specialists I/II (6)	\$88,882
Licensing Supervisor (1)	\$108,878
Licensing Consultant (1)	\$108,878
<b>Other</b>	
Operating Expenses	<u>\$126,744</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$877,792</u></b>

The proposed legislation also requires all pre-kindergarten programs to comply with child safety and welfare minimum standards. LDOE reports local education agencies (LEAs) will incur costs for possible restroom accommodations needed in public and nonpublic schools because certain LEAs do not have bathrooms specifically for prekindergarten. The department reports the expenditure amount will depend on existing facilities available at each school and is indeterminable. **SEE PAGE 2**

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

**LA Dept. of Education (LDOE)**

LDOE reports an anticipated revenue increase of \$6,350 SGR from collecting licensing fees received from nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs due to the proposed law requiring these programs to be licensed as early learning centers. There department identified 254 nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs without a license that will incur a cost of \$25 per program upon enactment.

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| <p><u>Senate</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 &gt;= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S &amp; H}</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 &gt;= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S &amp; H}</p> | <p><u>House</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) &gt;= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H &amp; S}</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) &gt;= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}</p> |
|---|---|

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
 Deputy Fiscal Officer



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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:**

**Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**

DCFS reports the proposed legislation will require an expenditure increase of \$5.1 M and 56 additional T.O. in FY 26 to: 1) perform additional state central registry clearances and administrative appeals of substantiated findings for school employees, 2) refer misappropriated reports to local or state law enforcement within twenty-four hours, 3) collect mandatory reports and investigate cases of alleged sexual abuse involving child perpetrator living in the same residence as child victim or indeterminable, and 4) assess the family of the victim child and the alleged perpetrator child of any sexual abuse cases. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) cannot corroborate the total increase in expenditures and staff reported by the department. The LFO does not believe the requirements of proposed law will create a workload sufficient to require the reported level of additional funding and employees based on aspects of proposed law not changing existing law and requested information on employee-to-caseload ratios not being provided.

DCFS reports the need for \$1.3 M to fund twelve (12) T.O. positions to perform state central registry clearances on school employees required by proposed legislation. The department reports these additional SCR clearances will result in additional administrative appeals for substantiated findings for those listed above. The department estimates that there are 100,000 teachers and school employees (public and private) in the state that will require DCFS to complete an SCR clearance. Proposed legislation requires DCFS to conduct SCR clearances for those mentioned above who are hired on or after August 1, 2025. The LFO cannot corroborate the department's report of increased funding and T.O. and believes the department may be able to utilize existing staff and resources to support this function.

DCFS reports the need for \$751,795 to fund eight (8) T.O. positions to refer misappropriated mandatory reports to local or state law enforcement within twenty-four hours. The department reports the need for four (4) Child Welfare (CW) Specialist 2's and one (1) Child Welfare Supervisor to provide 24/7 coverage for the child abuse hotline and complete written mandated reporter reports. Upon enactment of proposed legislation, the department estimates an increase of 793 calls per month (9,516 calls per year). The workload-to-employee ratio for a CW Specialist is 200 calls per month (2,400 calls per year) per caseworker, which would allow the 4 CW Specialists to collectively take and report on 800 calls per month (9,600 calls per year) while being managed by the CW Supervisor. DCFS also reports the need for three (3) Social Service Analysts 1's to ensure 24/7 coverage of mandatory reports by conducting collateral interviews, completing referrals, requesting records, and transporting clients. The LFO cannot corroborate the department's report. Existing law requires the department to promptly communicate abuse or neglect cases to the appropriate law enforcement agency pursuant to Children's Code Article 616(H).

DCFS reports the need for \$2.4 M to fund twenty-three (23) T.O. positions to collect mandatory reporter reports and investigate cases of alleged sexual abuse involving child perpetrators living in the same residence as child victim or cases identified as indeterminable by the mandatory reporter, but the reporter suspects that the abuse occurred at the child's residence. Proposed legislation also requires DCFS to assess the family of the victim child and the alleged perpetrator child of any sexual abuse cases, including child sexual abuse cases referred from law enforcement that could occur at home or in a school setting. DCFS reports the department does not currently conduct investigations or assessments of alleged abuse or neglect that occurs in school settings or child-on-child abuse that does not involve parent culpability. The LFO believes DCFS will undergo an increase in workload due to the new requirements set within the proposed legislation; however, DCFS has not yet reported employee-to-caseload ratios for the LFO to determine if requirements under this measure will require the reported level of additional funding and employees.

DCFS reports the need for \$1.4 M to fund thirteen (13) T.O. positions to collect and investigate reports of abuse or neglect if the perpetrator is believed to be a person living in the same residence as the child, or any residence of the child if the child has more than one residence. DCFS estimates the department will receive 978 new reports in FY 26 involving a person living in the same residence as the child, based on the department referring 6,517 cases to law enforcement and estimating 15% (.15 x 6,517 referred cases = 978) involved a person living in the same residence as the child. The LFO cannot corroborate the department's report and has not yet received employee-to-caseload ratios to support the department's statement.

**Office of Technology Services (OTS)/Division of Administration (DOA)**

OTS/DOA reports an expenditure increase of \$1.2 M in FY 26 to develop system enhancements to automate DCFS's current manual processes in checking the SCR for valid/substantiated findings and communicating with LDOE the status of mentioned findings. This process would require a partnership with OTS to provide updates to the DCFS certification platform. However, LDOE reports there could be no technology costs associated with this process as program technology exists used by Licensing Specialists to record SCR checks conducted through the department.

**Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ)**

OJJ reports no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure.

Senate  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**