

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 312** SLS 24RS 120
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 8, 2024	6:32 PM	Author: EDMONDS
Dept./Agy.: Department of Children and Family Services		Analyst: Tamiko Stroud
Subject: Creates Adoption Awareness Program		

CHILDREN OR GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides for the Adoption Awareness Act. (8/1/24)

Proposed law creates within the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) an Adoption Awareness Program. Proposed law directs the Dept. of Children and Family Services to contract with an eligible vendor who will be responsible for providing supportive services. Proposed law allows the vendor to contract with another entity to provide services. Proposed law requires the contracted vendor to submit a monthly report on the status and operation of the Adoption Awareness Program. Proposed law requires that the DCFS finance the Adoption Awareness Program with TANF funds to the extent feasible. Proposed law allows the contracted vendor to use the appropriated funds to cover administrative costs as long as the administrative costs does not exceed 15% of TANF funds. Proposed law provides that the Adoption Awareness Program may reimburse state residents who have adopted a child or others for certain qualification and out-of-pocket expenses. Proposed law directs the contracted vendor to prepare brochures describing the program and pertinent contact information, including the website. Proposed law requires the DCFS to distribute the informational brochures to certain parties.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed legislation reallocates existing TANF Block Grant funds for expenditures associated with the Adoption Awareness Program. DCFS is required to contract with an eligible vendor to provide the supportive services such as marketing (including the creation of a website), telephone or video hotline, and cost reimbursement for prospective adoptive parents. The department anticipates to spend an estimated cost of \$668,758 for hotline operation and marketing materials, \$224,507 for personal services for two (2) new positions, and \$1,430,800 for reimbursement for prospective adoptive parents, totaling in \$2,324,065 Federal TANF expenditures increase. Funds will be transferred from current TANF initiatives.

Note: Although the proposed law requires the department to utilize TANF funding for the Adoption Awareness Program, DCFS must determine if the requirements of this measure are allowable TANF expenditures under Federal guidelines. To the extent TANF funding cannot be the new Adoption Awareness Program, the legislature will have to appropriate an alternative means of finance (reflected as general fund in the expenditure table above).

DCFS estimates the cost of the operation of a hotline to be \$229,740 for 500 calls per month at approximately \$38.29 per call (\$38.29 x 6,000 calls per year), based on an annual cost with Via Link, a Louisiana hotline for parenting assistance. DCFS estimates the cost of marketing services to be \$439,018 for billboards, online/digital ads, website, and brochures. The estimated cost of the design and concept creations for billboards, online/digital ads, and landing page for the website is \$57,050, based on an existing contract with Franklin and Associates. The estimated operation cost of 11 billboards running for six months and digital advertising campaigns on media platforms for eight months is \$367,750, totaling to \$424,800 (\$57,050 + \$367,750). DCFS projects the need of 50,000 brochures at \$3.52 per brochure, based on existing contract with Safe Haven, to be distributed to public health offices, middle or high schools, charitable clinics, persons obtaining STI testing, and any pregnant woman applying for Medicaid at an estimated cost of \$14,218 (\$3.52 x 50,000).

Expenditure	Cost Estimate
Hotline Operation	\$229,740
Billboards/Ads/Website - Franklin & Ass.	\$424,800
Brochures - Safe Haven	\$14,218
Total	\$668,758

Continue on page 2

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

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

Patrice Thomas
 Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

EXPENDITURE Explanation from page 1

In addition, the proposed law requires DCFS to reimburse prospective adoptive parents for expenses to qualify as an adoptive parent, home study expenses to carry out the adoptions, and counseling for birth parents to surrender their parental rights. DCFS anticipates to hire one (1) additional Child Welfare Consultant and one (1) Child Welfare Specialist 3 at a total cost estimate of \$224,507 for program development, monitoring, and management of reimbursement process.

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Personal Services	
Child Welfare Consultant	\$80,350 yearly = 3,090.39 bi-weekly x 26 pay periods
Child Welfare Specialist 3	\$65,582 yearly = 2,522.39 bi-weekly x 26 pay periods
Operating Services	\$4,650
Supplies	\$2,250
Equipment	<u>\$8,925</u>
Total	\$224,507

Based on actual expenditures from federal FY 23, DCFS provided expenditures for home study cases, preplacement analysis of a prospective adoptive parent, for a nonprofit agency at \$287,500, which included 81 petitions at an average cost of \$2,500 per home study case (81 x \$2,500 = \$287,500). Also, DCFS provided expenditures for home study cases at a private adoption agency at \$202,500, which includes 115 petitions at an average cost of \$2,500 per home study case (115 x \$2,500 = \$202,500). Under the proposed law, DCFS projects an increase in the number of petitions due to the inclusion of prospective adoptive parents becoming subject to reimbursements; however, DCFS is unable to predict the number of prospective adoptive parents in the upcoming fiscal year. Therefore, DCFS anticipates doubling home study case expenditures from \$490,000 (\$287,500 nonprofit agencies + \$202,500 private adoption agencies) in federal FY 23 to an estimated \$980,000 (\$405,000 nonprofit agencies + \$575,000 private adoption agencies) under this measure.


DCFS provides an estimated cost for FY 25 post placement cases for a nonprofit agency at \$145,800. DCFS projects post placement visits to cost \$300 for an average of 6 visits per case (6 visits x \$300 per visit = \$1,800 per post placement case). DCFS projects to receive 81 petitions at an average cost of \$1,800 per post placement case (81 x \$1,800 = \$145,800). DCFS provides an estimated cost for FY 25 post placement cases at a private adoption agency at \$207,000, which includes 115 petitions at an average cost of \$1,800 per post placement case (115 x \$1,800 = \$207,000). In total, DCFS provides an estimated cost for FY 25 post placement case expenditures with nonprofit and private adoption agencies at \$352,800 (\$145,800 + \$207,000).

DCFS provides an estimated cost for FY 25 surrender counseling cases for a nonprofit agency at \$40,000, which includes 81 petitions at an average cost of \$500 per surrender counseling case (81 x \$500 = \$40,500). DCFS provides an estimated cost for post placement visits at a private adoption agency at \$57,500, which includes 115 petitions at an average cost of \$500 per home study (115 x \$500 = \$57,500). In total, DCFS provides an estimated cost for FY 25 surrender counseling case expenditures with nonprofit and private adoption agencies at \$98,000 (\$40,500 + \$57,500).

<u>FY 25</u>	<u>No. of Petitions</u>	<u>Average Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Home Study			
Nonprofit	162	\$2,500	\$405,000
Private	<u>230</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>	<u>\$575,000</u>
			\$980,000
Post Placement			
Nonprofit	81	\$1,800*	\$145,800
Private	<u>115</u>	<u>\$1,800*</u>	<u>\$207,000</u>
			\$352,800
Surrender			
Nonprofit	81	\$500	\$40,500
Private	<u>115</u>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$57,500</u>
			\$98,000
Total			\$1,430,800

*DCFS projects post placement visits to cost \$300 for an average of 6 visits per case (6 visits x \$300 per visit = \$1,800 per post placement case).

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