



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 137** SLS 23RS 316  
 Bill Text Version: **RE-REENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 22, 2023 6:26 AM	<b>Author:</b> BARROW
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Office of the Governor	<b>Analyst:</b> Patrice Thomas
<b>Subject:</b> Creates Office of State Child Ombudsman-Governor's Office	

CHILDREN RR +\$293,877 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Creates the Office of Child Advocacy and the state child advocate. (8/1/23)

Proposed law creates the Office of the State Child Ombudsman within the Office of the Governor and shall be led by the state child ombudsman. Proposed law provides that the governor shall appoint the state child ombudsman with confirmation from the Senate. Proposed law provides that the state child ombudsman shall serve at the pleasure of the governor with a salary fixed by the governor and approved by the legislature. Proposed law provides that the Office of the State Child Ombudsman and the state child ombudsman shall act independently of any state department. Proposed law authorizes the state child ombudsman to employ any staff deemed necessary from funds appropriated. Proposed law establishes the duties of the state child ombudsman including an annual report to the legislature. Proposed law provides duties between the Office of the State Child Ombudsman/state child ombudsman and state agencies having responsibility for the custody or care of children. Proposed law deems all information and records obtained by the Office of the State Child Ombudsman confidential and not subject to disclosure.

EXPENDITURES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$293,877	\$292,007	\$294,355	\$296,774	\$299,265	<b>\$1,476,278</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$293,877</b>	<b>\$292,007</b>	<b>\$294,355</b>	<b>\$296,774</b>	<b>\$299,265</b>	<b>\$1,476,278</b>

  

REVENUES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law will increase SGF expenditures by \$293,876 in FY 24 and subsequent fiscal years reflecting an anticipated increase in personal services associated with market rate adjustments. The proposed law creates the Office of the State Child Ombudsman and a State Child Ombudsman position as well as provides for duties and powers, primarily focusing on the protection of children. In addition, the proposed law authorizes the State Child Ombudsman to hire any staff deemed necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the newly created Office of the State Child Ombudsman.

The Office of the Governor reports that the staffing requirements necessary to operate an effective Office of the State Child Ombudsman would likely incorporate two (2) new T.O. positions - State Child Ombudsman at \$147,231 (salary and related benefits) and an administrative assistant at \$75,996 (salary and related benefits). Also, the Office of the Governor reports needing operating expenses of \$21,500, professional services of \$45,000, and equipment of \$4,150. The breakdown of expenditures is below:

Expenditures	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
State Child Ombudsman	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000
Administrative Assistant*	<u>\$45,000</u>	<u>\$46,350</u>	<u>\$47,741</u>	<u>\$49,173</u>	<u>\$50,648</u>
Position Salaries	\$140,000	\$141,350	\$142,741	\$144,173	\$145,648
Related Benefits	<u>\$83,227</u>	<u>\$84,157</u>	<u>\$85,115</u>	<u>\$86,101</u>	<u>\$87,117</u>
Total Personal Services	\$223,227	\$225,507	\$227,855	\$230,274	\$232,765
Total Operating Services	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500
Total Professional Services	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
Total Acquisitions	<u>\$4,150</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total Expenditures	\$293,877	\$292,007	\$294,355	\$296,774	\$299,265

\* In the ensuing fiscal years, a 3% increase in the salary for market rate adjustments (merits) and related benefits for the Administrative Assistant position, which the LFO presumes will be a classified position.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

<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>	
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*Evan Brasseaux*  
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**Evan Brasseaux**  
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer