



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 137** SLS 23RS 316
 Bill Text Version: **RE-REENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action: **w/ #2 HSE COMM AMD**
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: June 4, 2023	12:12 PM	Author: BARROW
Dept./Agy.: Office of the Governor		Analyst: Patrice Thomas
Subject: Creates the State Child Ombudsman within LLA		

CHILDREN RR2 +\$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 provides that the legislative auditor shall appoint the state child ombudsman. Proposed law provides that the state child ombudsman shall serve at the pleasure of the legislative auditor with a salary fixed by the legislative auditor subject to legislative appropriation. Proposed law establishes the duties and responsibilities of the state child ombudsman including an annual report to the legislature. Proposed law provides that state agencies having responsibility for the custody or care of children shall provide monthly notice to the state child ombudsman of the death of a child in its custody or care. Proposed law provides legislature shall perform a biennial review and evaluation of the state child ombudsman. Proposed law effective when an Act of the LA Legislature containing a specific appropriation is enacted into law.

EXPENDITURES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$293,877	\$292,007	\$294,355	\$296,774	\$1,177,013
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	\$293,877	\$292,007	\$294,355	\$296,774	\$1,177,013

REVENUES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	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 law will increase SGF expenditures by \$293,877 in FY 24 and subsequent fiscal years reflecting an anticipated increase in personal services associated with market rate adjustments. The proposed law creates the State Child Ombudsman position within the LA Legislator Auditor (LLA) as well as provides for duties and responsibilities, primarily focusing on the protection and welfare of children.

LLA anticipates 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, operating expenses of \$21,500, professional services of \$45,000, and equipment of \$4,150 are needed. The breakdown of expenditures is below:

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

* In the ensuing fiscal years, a 3% increase in the salary for market rate adjustments (merits) and related benefits for the Administrative Assistant position.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate Dual Referral Rules
 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}

Evan Brasseaux

Evan Brasseaux
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer