# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
## Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 137** SLS 23RS 316

Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Date:** June 8, 2023     6:37 AM | | **Author:** BARROW |
| **Dept./Agy.:** Office of the Governor | | |
| **Subject:** Creates the State Child Ombudsman within LLA | | **Analyst:** Patrice Thomas |

CHILDREN       EN +$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. | $293,877 | $292,007 | $294,355 | $296,774 | $299,265 | **$1,476,278** |
| 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** | **$293,877** | **$292,007** | **$294,355** | **$296,774** | **$299,265** | **$1,476,278** |

| 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 2024 | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| State Child Ombudsman | $95,000 | $95,000 | $95,000 | $95,000 | $95,000 |
| Administrative Assistant* | $45,000 | $46,350 | $47,741 | $49,173 | $50,648 |
| Position Salaries | $140,000 | $141,350 | $142,741 | $144,173 | $145,648 |
| Related Benefits | $83,227 | $84,157 | $85,115 | $86,101 | $87,117 |
| 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 | $4,150 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| 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.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

| Senate | Dual Referral Rules | House | |
|---|---|---|---|
| [x] | 13.5.1 >= $100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H} | [x] | 6.8(F)(1) >= $100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S} |
| [ ] | 13.5.2 >= $500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H} | [ ] | 6.8(G) >= $500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S} |

*Evan Brasseaux*

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**Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer**