

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 52** SLS 26RS 236
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 27, 2026 6:34 PM	Author: CATHEY
Dept./Agy.: DCFS and LA. Dept. of Health	
Subject: Public Benefits Household, Children in DCFS Custody	Analyst: John McKay

CHILDREN/FAMILY SERVICES DEPT EN SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to public assistance benefits for children. (8/1/26)

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report identifying information to the LA Dept. of Health (LDH) within three business days following a hearing held pursuant to Children’s Code Article 624. Proposed law requires LDH to determine the required information to identify the child and their household. Upon receipt of information, proposed law requires LDH to immediately: (1) review whether the child’s parents are receiving any public assistance benefits; (2) adjust any SNAP, WIC, or FITAP benefits for the parents’ household; and (3) issue a new Medicaid managed care insurance card for the child at the child’s new residence. If a child is under the age of 18, proposed law requires DCFS to report to LDH when the child is returned to the custody of the parent. Proposed law requires LDH to conduct an assessment to determine where the child resides if it receives an application for a child included in another household, and adjust benefits. Proposed law requires LDH to report an individual to the fraud detection unit for investigation and recovery of benefits if it is determined that the individual failed to report a child no longer living in the household. Proposed law requires a state child ombudsman to conduct an annual review of the implementation of proposed law by DCFS and LDH, including the timely compliance with reporting requirements and a review of department procedures.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
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	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) - DCFS reports that proposed law will have no anticipated direct material effect on expenditures. Proposed law requires DCFS to report identifying information on children who enter and exit its custody to the LA Department of Health (LDH). Currently, DCFS maintains and reports child placement data. DCFS reports that the proposed legislation will not impact its work processes, as it already updates the Medicaid system when a child enters foster care following the seventy-two-hour hearing, since the child may be returned to their family as a result of that hearing.

LA Dept of Health (LDH) - Proposed law is anticipated to result in an indeterminable, yet minimal, increase in expenditures for LDH related to reviewing, assessing, and reporting public benefit cases of parents whose children are entering and exiting DCFS custody. Proposed law requires LDH to determine the necessary information from DCFS to identify the child in custody and the child’s household. After receiving the information, LDH shall review whether the child’s parents are receiving public benefits (SNAP, WIC, FITAP, and Medicaid) and adjust these benefits to reflect a change in the parents’ household size, depending on whether the child has entered and exited DCFS custody. If the child is part of a new household, LDH is required to adjust the public benefit for that household.

LDH reports that the SNAP, WIC, FITAP, and Medicaid programs would have to assess costs related to their IT systems to incorporate new data collection fields or new integrated queries to verify household status. Therefore, the impact of the proposed law is indeterminable as the department has not performed a complete review of IT systems. Until such time as a review is completed, LDH is unable to provide the impact of this measure on expenditures associated with its public benefit programs. The cost of updates to the corresponding IT systems is potentially significant.

LA Legislative Auditor (LLA)

LLA reports that proposed legislation will not result in any additional expenditures, as the proposed measure requires a state child ombudsman to conduct an annual review of the implementation of proposed law by the DCFS and the LDH. LLA indicates that the provisions of the proposed measure can be absorbed within existing resources and staffing levels.

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}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer