

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 237** SLS 26RS 9

Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: June 3, 2026	7:11 AM	Author: BARROW
Dept./Agy.: Children and Family Services (DCFS)		Analyst: Patrice Thomas
Subject: Child Welfare - Child Fatalities or Near Fatalities; Sunset Dept.		

CHILDREN

EN NO IMPACT See Note

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Provides relative to child welfare. (8/1/26)

Proposed law requires the state child ombudsman, after being notified by DCFS, to send notifications (with certain information) to certain legislators within 24 hours when a child in their district has died as the result of abuse/neglect; DCFS send notifications (with certain information) to the state child ombudsman upon receiving report of fatality/near fatality of a child who is the subject of any abuse/neglect investigation and after the conclusion of the investigation; DCFS must provide certain information when an investigation is substantiated; and authorizes the ombudsman to have unrestricted remote access to view records on DCFS's child welfare computer networks/systems. Proposed law adds testimony, with identifying information and explicit details related to physical or sexual abuse of children, in executive session, but exempts it from public records. Proposed law requires DCFS to establish a law enforcement liaison position and designate an employee to send notifications to the ombudsman. Proposed law creates a critical incident review team, with specific members, to review cases of child fatalities/near fatalities; the representative of the Attorney General serves as chair; and confidentiality of the review team. Proposed law requires a forensic interview by a child advocacy center (CAC) within 72 hours, and the CAC to notify the multidisciplinary investigative team within 24 hours. Proposed law requires all mandatory reporters to complete annual training provided by DCFS. Under proposed law, alleged child perpetrators shall be referred to DCFS, and DCFS may assess the family of the child victim and child perpetrator. Proposed law effective 1/01/27; extends the sunset of DCFS from 7/01/26 to 7/01/28, effective 6/30/26; requires DCFS to use an existing classified T.O. position for the law enforcement liaison.

EXPENDITURES	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

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

There is no anticipated material impact on the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Office of the Attorney General, the State Child Ombudsman (LA Legislative Auditor), law enforcement agencies, district courts, or district attorneys as a result of this measure.

Proposed law requires DCFS to utilize an existing classified T.O. position when establishing a new law enforcement liaison position. DCFS reports any increased workload required by proposed law will be absorbed by the department using existing staff and resources.

The Department of Justice/Attorney General reports that any costs will be absorbed within its existing resources.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

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}

Alan M. Boxberger

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Legislative Fiscal Officer