



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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*This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.*

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**Bill Number:** H.3214 Introduced on January 12, 2021  
**Author:** Bernstein  
**Subject:** Kinship Foster Care  
**Requestor:** House Judiciary  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Payne  
**Impact Date:** February 8, 2021

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill will increase the General Fund expenditures of the Department of Social Services (DSS) by \$459,411 annually, beginning in FY2021-22, to provide foster care board payments to provisional relative or fictive kin foster care providers during the licensure process.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on January 12, 2021**

##### **State Expenditure**

This bill amends the Kinship Foster Care Program to allow a child to be placed with an individual who is fictive kin. As defined in this bill, an individual is fictive kin if they are not related by birth, adoption, or marriage, but share a significant emotional connection with a child or family of a child in need of foster care. Currently, the Kinship Foster Program requires DSS to attempt to place a child, who must be placed outside of the family home, with a relative if DSS determines this placement to be in the best interest of the child. The provisions of this bill would allow DSS to place a child with either a relative, or fictive kin. This bill allows DSS to place a child with a relative or fictive kin not yet licensed as a kinship foster parent under certain circumstances. Further, an unlicensed relative or fictive kin with whom a child has been placed shall have the same legal status as a licensed kinship foster care provider, to include availability of payments and other services, during the licensure process.

DSS indicates the provision of this bill allowing unlicensed relatives or fictive kin to receive board payments after having a child placed with them, while they are working to obtain their kinship foster parent license, will have a fiscal impact on their General Fund expenditures. DSS states currently, unlicensed fictive kin providers receive no payments, while unlicensed relative providers normally receive a payment equal to one-half that received by licensed kinship foster care providers. DSS estimates there will be approximately five-hundred provisional placements to an unlicensed relative or kinship foster care provider, and that three-hundred of these will apply for a license and be eligible to receive payments. Further, DSS estimates the number of unlicensed relative and fictive kin providers eligible for these payments to be one-hundred and fifty each.

For their cost estimate, DSS used the monthly foster care board payment amounts they have requested approval of in their FY2021-22 budget request. The monthly amounts are \$605 for children ages zero to five years old, \$708 for ages six to twelve years old, and \$747 for children thirteen and older. DSS estimates placements for unlicensed relative providers, who already receive half-payments, to be fifty-nine for ages zero to five, forty-two for ages six to twelve, and forty-nine for age thirteen and older, for an estimated monthly expenditure impact of \$51,055. DSS estimates placements for unlicensed fictive kin providers, who currently receive no payments, to be fifty-eight for ages zero to five, forty-three for ages six to twelve, and forty-nine for age thirteen and older, for an estimated monthly expenditure impact of \$102,092. DSS indicates the average licensure process takes three months to complete, and therefore multiplied these two monthly estimates by three to calculate an estimate of \$153,165 annually for relative providers, and \$306,276 annually for fictive kin providers for a grand total annual amount of \$459,411. Therefore, this bill will increase the General Fund expenditures of DSS by \$459,411 annually, beginning in FY2021-22, to provide foster care board payments to provisional foster care providers during the licensure process.

**State Revenue**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director