

## Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB349-H1

House of Origin     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
 Second House       In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Tata

3. **Committee:** Finance and Appropriations

4. **Title:** Foster care; housing support for persons between ages 18 and 21.

5. **Summary:** Directs local departments of social services (local department) to provide housing support to any person who (i) is 18 years of age or older but less than 21 years of age, (ii) was in foster care under the custody of a local department (a) upon turning 18 years of age or (b) immediately prior to commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice and is transitioning from such commitment to self-sufficiency, and (iii) declines to participate in the Fostering Futures program. The bill requires that such housing support be provided in the form of payments not less than the amount that such person would otherwise receive for housing support through participation in the Fostering Futures program.

The substitute limits housing support to a period of no more than six months and limits eligible participants to foster youths who turned 18 years of age on or after July 1, 2022.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes. Item 346, DSS proposes setting up a new subprogram

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars*</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2023	\$626,521	General Fund
2024	\$624,775	General Fund
2025	\$624,775	General Fund
2026	\$624,775	General Fund
2027	\$624,775	General Fund
2028	\$624,775	General Fund
2029	\$624,775	General Fund

\*In addition to these costs, there is a 15.5 percent local match rate for local costs. The local match is \$5,745 in FY 2023 and \$5,425 in FY 2024 and each year thereafter.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This legislation expands the authority of the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide housing support services to youths between the ages of 18 and 21 who have aged out of foster care and are not participating in the Fostering Futures program or otherwise have an open foster care case. Because this population of youths do not have an

open foster care case with DSS, they also do not fall into the mandated Children's Services Act (CSA) service category. The substitute limits housing supports to a period of no more than six months and limits eligible participants to foster youths who turned 18 years of age on or after July 1, 2022.

According to the agency, in state fiscal year (FY) 2021, 424 youths aged out of foster care. The agency estimates that approximately 200 youths exiting foster care will take advantage of the program created by this legislation. With just six months of assistance, DSS does not anticipate that the program will grow over time. It is assumed that the majority of the remaining youths will choose to enter the Fostering Futures program, which provides ongoing supports from age 18 to age 21, but also has more stringent participation requirements than does the program created by this legislation.

### **Local Effort**

DSS estimates that three hours of local departments of social services (LDSS) staff time per participant over a six month period to support youths in this housing program. This estimate includes issuing payments, changing addresses for payments, and referrals to other services. In comparison, Fostering Future casework requires an average of 48 hours annually per youth receiving services.

Position cost estimates for local effort are based on full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and 1,500 productive work hours annually. Average position costs include salary, fringe benefits, non-personnel position costs (such as a phone and computer charges), as well as a one-time onboarding cost of \$5,163 in FY 2023. Position costs in FY 2024 and each year thereafter do not include the onboarding cost and are therefore less. LDSS staff costs are estimated to be \$37,066 in FY 2023 and \$35,000 in FY 2024 and each year thereafter. These LDSS staff costs would be funded with 84.5 percent general fund and a 15.5 percent local match.

### **Maintenance Payments**

The youth in the housing support program would receive a monthly maintenance payment of \$470, which is equal to the current room and board portion of the maintenance payment provided by the Fostering Futures program. Annual housing support maintenance payments are projected to cost \$564,000 (200 x (\$470 x 6)). Maintenance payments provided by the program created by this legislation would be funded using general fund dollars.

### **State Contractor**

One part-time DSS contract staff is needed in order to oversee the funds and manage allocations to the LDSS. The hourly contract cost is estimated to be \$30 per hour, which includes the contract agency fee and the required effort, estimated to be 20 hours per week. Total annual costs for the state contractor are estimated to be \$31,200. These costs would be funded with general fund dollars.

### **Training**

Additionally, there would be a need to update training for LDSS staff. DSS notes that Random Moment Sampling (RMS) would need to be updated, which would require

additional training for local staff. DSS proposes providing training as a virtual offering; therefore, the local staff time required to complete the training is minimal. DSS anticipates costs related to training to be minimal and can be absorbed in current appropriation.

**Total Costs**

Total cost estimates are \$632,266 (\$626,521 general fund and \$5,745 local match) in FY 2023 and \$630,200 (\$624,775 general fund and \$5,425 local match) in FY 2024 and each year thereafter.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Social Services, local departments of social services
10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.
11. **Other Comments:** None.