

Department of Planning and Budget 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1081

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed

Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Edwards

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: Office of the Children's Ombudsman.

5. Summary: Repeals the Children's Advocacy Fund, created to support the Office of the Children's Ombudsman (Office), as general funds are used to fund the Office. The definition of "abused and neglected child" is amended to match the definition in Title 63.2. The bill removes the authority previously granted to the Office to investigate "adoption attorneys." The bill also clarifies that the Office is exempt from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Finally, the bill contains several technical amendments.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: No state fiscal impact.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Office of the Children's Ombudsman does not anticipate a fiscal impact from this legislation. The bill repeals the Children's Advocacy Fund, however, the fund has never been utilized because the Office has been funded using general fund appropriation. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact to the elimination of this fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Office of the Children's Ombudsman

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: January 16, 2023

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