



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0805 Introduced on January 9, 2018
Author: Shealy
Subject: Department of Children’s Advocacy
Requestor: Senate General
RFA Analyst(s): Kokolis, Gardner, A. Martin, and Powell
Impact Date: February 6, 2018

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	See Below
Other and Federal	\$0	See Below
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	\$0	See Below
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	See Below
Local Expenditure	\$0	\$0
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates the Department of Children’s Advocacy (DCA) which will have a recurring expenditure impact to the General Fund for an Executive Director of approximately \$107,671 for one new FTE.

The Department of Administration (Admin) will transfer 4 programs to DCA, which is comprised of 209 FTE positions and 26 temporary or time-limited positions. These positions are currently within Admin’s budgeted appropriations. Expenditures for these positions total \$6,442,104 from the General Fund, \$11,027,688 from Other Funds, and \$50,000 from Federal Funds. The program funds and positions will be transferred to the DCA. As a result, the transfer within this subsection will have no expenditure impact to the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds for Department of Administration.

This bill will have no expenditure impact to the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds for Department of Mental Health, Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Health and Environmental Control, John de la Howe School, School for the Deaf and Blind, Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, and Department of Education.

The remaining expenditure and revenue impacts of this bill are pending, contingent upon a response from the Department of Social Services.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced by Senate General on January 9, 2018

State Expenditure

The bill creates the Department of Children's Advocacy (DCA), to be headed by an executive director who shall be appointed to a six-year term by the Governor upon the advice and consent of the Senate. The executive director must not have been a director or deputy director of a state agency for a period of four years preceding their appointment.

The DCA shall be responsible for ensuring that children receive adequate protection and care from services or programs offered by the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), the John de la Howe School (JDLH), the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School (Wil Lou Gray), and the School for the Deaf and Blind (SCSDB). The DCA shall submit an annual report to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives detailing the agency's activities. State agencies shall inform the DCA within twenty-four hours of a critical incident, which includes a fatality, near fatality, or serious bodily or emotional injury of a child who is in the custody of or receiving services from a state agency, or circumstances that result in a reasonable belief that a state agency failed in its duty to protect a child. The DCA shall conduct an investigation of these critical incidents.

The DCA shall establish a toll-free hotline to receive all reports of suspected child abuse or neglect for investigation. DSS, DMH, HHS, DJJ, DHEC, DDSN, the John de la Howe School, the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, and SCSDB shall post the hotline number prominently in clear view of all employees, the public, and in a conspicuous location on the agency's website. The Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program, the Division for Review of the Foster Care of Children, and the Continuum of Care for Emotionally Disturbed Children Division shall be transferred from the Department of Administration to the DCA. An Interagency System for Caring for Emotionally Disturbed Children shall be established, consisting of the DCA, DDSN, HHS, DMH, and DSS. The bill repeals Section 63-11-1110 and deletes Section 1-11-10 (A)(8), which created the Children's Case Resolution System.

Once a total number of employees is determined, an estimated cost for the space required for the new agency will be calculated. This cost would be incurred over time and assumes that the new agency chooses to co-locate its departments. This calculation assumes an average of 210 square feet per employee, which includes circulation and common space. This assumption is currently used by the Department of Administration when evaluating agency space needs. It also assumes that the agency would occupy rented space in the Columbia area at a gross cost of \$13.10 per square foot. There may be some savings realized for the agencies from which these programs are being transferred, if those agencies are able to reduce the amount of leased space or find another state entity to occupy state owned space. The amount of these savings is undetermined until real estate agreements are finalized.

The new FTE position of executive director of the DCA will require an expenditure of approximately \$107,671 which includes salary and fringe benefits from the General Fund. This was estimated using the midpoint of the band for a Program Manager II in the State classification system. It is also assumed that the new agency would pay for the operating costs associated with the new employee using existing allocations.

Department of Administration. The bill transfers the agency's Continuum of Care for Emotionally Disturbed Children, the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Foster Care Review Board, and the Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program to the DCA. The bill removes the Children's Case Resolution System. For FY 2017-18, these programs had total appropriations consisting of \$6,442,104 from the General Fund, \$11,027,688 from Other Funds, and \$50,000 from Federal Funds. These programs consist of 209 FTE positions and 26 temporary or time-limited positions. The program funds and positions will be transferred to the DCA. There will be no expenditure impact to the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

Department of Social Services. The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the Department of Social Services.

Department of Mental Health. This bill requires the agency to post the hotline number prominently in clear view of all employees, the public, and on the agency's website. The agency indicates that printing and website updates can be managed within current appropriations.

Department of Health and Human Services. This bill requires the agency to post the hotline number prominently in clear view of all employees, the public, and on the agency's website. The agency indicates that printing and website updates can be managed within current appropriations.

Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. The department indicates that this bill would have no fiscal impact to the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds. Any expenditures related to posting the statewide toll-free child abuse hotline online and in print can be managed within current appropriations.

Department of Juvenile Justice. The department indicates that this bill would have no fiscal impact to the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds. Any operational expenditures to post the single statewide toll-free child abuse hotline would be managed within current appropriations.

Department of Health and Environmental Control. This bill requires the agency to post the new toll-free child abuse hotline number for all employees, the public, and on their website. They will also be required to cooperate with the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education in the establishment and support of a comprehensive system of special education and related services required by the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Act. The agency indicates that any anticipated expenditures can be managed within current appropriations.

John de la Howe School. This bill requires JDLH to post the hotline number prominently in clear view of all employees, the public, and on the JDLH website. JDLH indicates that printing and website updates can be accomplished within existing appropriations. It further requires that

the DCA shall have access at any and all reasonable times to any facility, residence, program or portion thereof that is operated, licensed or funded by a state agency, and that DCA shall have unrestricted access to all electronic information systems records, reports, materials, and employees. Depending on the definition of any and all reasonable times and how this is implemented by DCA, JDLH may incur additional expenses associated with developing a physical or technological system to enable such access. The residential programs at JDLH, particularly the Wilderness Program, may be operationally impacted by this requirement. JDLH indicates that there will be a minimal expenditure impact that can be managed within existing appropriations.

School for the Deaf and Blind. This bill requires SCSSDB to post the hotline number prominently in clear view of all employees, the public, and on the SCSSDB website. SCSSDB indicates that printing and website updates can be accomplished within existing appropriations. The remaining provisions of the bill are similar to existing requirements with which SCSSDB already complies or are provisions that SCSSDB can easily comply with given sufficient notice. SCSSDB indicates that there will be a minimal expenditure impact that can be managed within existing appropriations.

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. This bill requires Wil Lou Gray to post the hotline number prominently in clear view of all employees, the public, and on the Wil Lou Gray website. Wil Lou Gray indicates that printing and website updates can be accomplished within existing appropriations. The agency indicates that the remaining provisions of this bill can be accomplished using existing staff and resources. Wil Lou Gray estimates that complying with the provisions of this bill will require approximately five percent of the time of the Agency Director, the Director of Student Services, the Principal, the Shift Supervisors, nurses, counselors and other staff. Wil Lou Gray indicates that there will be a minimal expenditure impact that can be managed within existing appropriations.

Department of Education. This bill removes the reference to the Children's Case Resolution System in Section 59-36-20 (C). Currently, if various state agencies are unable to agree on how to share the financial responsibilities for a particular child, that issue must be decided by the Children's Case Resolution System. The Department of Education does not anticipate an expenditure impact related to the removal of this provision, nor does it anticipate an impact as a result of interacting with the new DCA.

State Revenue

The revenue impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from DSS. Due to the nature of state and federal matching requirements, this bill may have complex impacts on revenue streams and programs beyond those specified in this bill.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director