



*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**LOCAL**  
**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 11-0459  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Casso  
 Sen. Jahn

**Date:** February 4, 2011  
**Bill Status:** House Local Government  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING METHODS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS YOUTH.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2011-2012</b>	<b>FY 2012-2013</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> August 10, 2011, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2011, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> See Local Government Impact section.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill aims to make state statute compliant with the federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. Specifically, the bill does the following:

- changes the age range in the definition of "homeless youth" to any youth or child under the age of 21 from the current range of between 15 and 18 years of age;
- increases the number of days that a runaway and homeless youth can stay in a licensed child care facility or homeless shelter to 21 days from the current limit of 14 days;
- allows a runaway and homeless youth to be placed in a host family home for up to 21 days; and
- requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to adopt rules defining "host family home."

The bill also encourages counties to assess each youth in an out-of-home placement who is 17 years old to determine whether the youth is ready for independent living upon aging out of the child welfare system at age 18 or if the youth should remain in the custody of the county until age 21. If funding is available, counties may continue to provide services to a youth at risk of homelessness through the age of 21.

**Local Government Impact**

The bill could impact counties in several ways. First, the increased time limits for homeless youth in child care facilities and homeless shelters and the availability of host family homes give counties additional options in placing homeless youth. Such options can reduce the need for a child to be placed in an out-of-home placement through the child welfare system, which could result in cost savings. The bill also encourages counties to determine the readiness of youth to live independently at age 18 and to consider the need for continuing services and custody through age 21. Expanding services beyond age 18 could increase costs, but any service expansion is at the discretion of counties and likely requires approval of the courts.

**Departments Contacted**

Human Services

Judicial

Law