



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

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0443
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Kefalas

Date: February 15, 2011
Bill Status: House Health and Environment
Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012: None required.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill codifies and makes modifications to the existing child fatality review process in the Department of Human Services (DHS). The bill establishes an 18-member child fatality review team in the DHS that includes representatives from the DHS, Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE), county departments of human services, and other members involved in the child welfare system. When there is a suspicious fatality of a child who had previous involvement with a county department, the child fatality review is required to do the following:

- review the circumstances around the fatality;
- review services provide by the county department to the child, his or her family, and the perpetrator;
- conduct interviews and review records about the case;
- review county department compliance with relevant statute, regulations, policies, and procedures in relation to the fatality;
- identify best practices of service delivery;
- identify factors that may have contributed to the conditions leading to the fatality;
- review services provided after the fatality to family and agency staff after the fatality;
- develop a report to submit to the Colorado State Child Fatality Prevention Team in the DPHE; and
- submit an annual report to the governor and certain legislative committees summarizing the reviews conducted during the year.

The bill requires county departments to report suspicious child fatalities to the DHS within 24 hours and to provide the DHS with all relevant records and reports about the county department's involvement with the child. The child fatality review team must complete its review within 120 days after all necessary information is received to initiate the review and county departments have 30 days after completion of the review to provide a written response to the DHS.

State Expenditures

The bill is expected to increase workload in the DHS and the DPHE as described below.

Department of Human Services. Because the bill is codifying an existing review process in the DHS, any increase in staff time is expected to be minimal and no new appropriation is required.

Department of Public Health and Environment. The DPHE will have additional workload for staff to participate as a member of the child fatality review. This duty is expected to require about 50 hours per year. The fiscal note assumes that this workload can be absorbed within existing resources and that no new appropriation is required.

Local Government Impact

Counties may have costs and require staff time for the child fatality review process in two areas. First, in the event of a child fatality, a county department of human services must provide information and participate in the review process, which would take staff time and possibly increase costs. Second, counties that have representatives on the review team will have additional workload for staff to participate. However, given that this bill codifies the existing child review process without making major changes, it is assumed that any cost and workload increase to counties will be minimal.

Departments Contacted

Human Services Law Public Health and Environment Judicial