

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0935

Date: April 24, 2013

Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Kerr; Newell
Rep. Young

Bill Status: Senate Health & Human Services

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING CREATING A DEFINITION OF A "DRUG-ENDANGERED CHILD" WITH RESPECT TO CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal. 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 2013-2014: None required.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill defines "drug-endangered child" in the context of child abuse and neglect. The bill removes certain drug-related behaviors from the current list of acts constituting child abuse or neglect, and instead, specifies that cases involving a drug-endangered child, as defined in the bill, constitute child abuse or neglect.

State Expenditures

By changing the definition of acts constituting child abuse or neglect in regards to drug endangerment of children, the bill may impact the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported. This change may ultimately affect the number of dependency and neglect cases heard by the courts. However, at this time, the impact of the change is unknown, and any change in caseload in the courts is assumed to be minimal and can be absorbed within existing appropriations to the Judicial Department. The Department of Human Services may also have increased workload to conduct training and rewrite rules concerning the new definition, but this work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government Impact

To the extent that the change in definitions in the bill impacts the number and type of child abuse and neglect cases reported, workload in county departments of human services to assess, investigate, and provide services may be affected. Any change is assumed to be minimal.

Departments Contacted

Human Services	Judicial	Law	Counties
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