

**STATE and LOCAL  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 14-1039  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Newell  
 Rep. Singer

**Date:** April 22, 2014  
**Bill Status:** Senate Health & Human Services  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**SHORT TITLE:** CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN ADVISORY WORK GROUP

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary*</b>	<b>FY 2014-2015</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	Workload increase.	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill creates a new advisory work group to examine the operations of the Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman Program and make recommendations concerning increased autonomy, accountability, and effective utilization of the program. The work group is to consist of no more than 15 members, including two legislators and the remainder appointed by the Governor. The bill specifies the specific groups and stakeholders to be appointed by the Governor and states that the acting child protection ombudsman is to be appointed as a nonvoting member. The workgroup must convene by August 1, 2014, and submit its written plan by December 1, 2014. All workgroup members, including legislators, serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

**State Expenditures**

The bill increases workload in various state departments and agencies to participate in the work group, if staff from these agencies are appointed by the Governor. This minimal workload increase will likely affect the Governor's Office, Department of Human Services, Judicial Department, and Office of the Child's Representative. The fiscal note assumes any state personnel appointed to the work group will serve within the scope of their existing duties. Because there is no reimbursement for expenses or compensation for members, no additional appropriations are required.

**Local Government Impact**

Similar to the state impact discussed above, the bill increases workload in local government agencies that serve on the task force. County departments of social/human services, county attorneys, county commissioners, and local law enforcement agencies could be involved with the work group if appointed by the Governor.

**Technical Note**

If Senate Bill 14-153 becomes law, legislators serving on various state committees and boards will become eligible for reimbursement of expenses and per diem through the Legislative Department budget. While SB 14-201 states that legislators serve on the work group without compensation or reimbursement of expenses, it is unclear how this provision and the provisions of SB 14-153 interact and which takes effect. If SB 14-153 becomes law, the costs under this bill could increase to \$3,008 General Fund, assuming the 2 legislators on the work group are reimbursed \$188 per meeting for 8 meetings in FY 2014-15.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Governor  
Legislature

Human Services  
Counties

Judicial