

*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*

**STATE and LOCAL  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Note: This fiscal note is provided pursuant under Joint Rule 22 (b) (2) and reflects strike-below Amendment L.001.**

<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 14-0213	<b>Date:</b> February 26, 2014
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Kagan	<b>Bill Status:</b> House Judiciary
Sen. Guzman	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Kerry White (303-866-3469)

**SHORT TITLE:** DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary*</b>	<b>FY 2014-2015</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>	See State Revenue section.	
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$1,342,059</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,231,979</u></b>
General Fund	1,046,750	951,525
Cash Funds	(78,812)	(121,249)
Centrally Appropriated Costs**	374,121	401,703
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	18.4 FTE	20.0 FTE
<b>Appropriation Required: \$1,046,750 - Multiple Agencies (FY 2014-15)</b>		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. Parentheses indicate a decrease in funds.

\*\* These costs are not included in the bill's appropriation. See the State Expenditures section for more information.

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill, referred by the Juvenile Defense Attorney Interim Committee and as amended by strike-below Amendment L.001, makes a number of changes to the procedures concerning the appointment of counsel for juveniles. It requires that certain information about the right to counsel and process for obtaining counsel be provided on a promise to appear or summons.

**Detention hearings and appointment of counsel.** When a juvenile is placed in a detention facility, the screening team is currently required to notify the court. This bill adds the district attorney and the local Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD) to the list of entities notified. The screening team must also provide the court and defense counsel with any screening material prepared and the law enforcement agency that arrested the juvenile must promptly provide the affidavit supporting probable cause and, if available, the arrest report. The bill also sets new requirements for detention hearings as follows:

- for a juvenile being held in detention on a warrant for violating a court order on a status offense (an offense that wouldn't be a crime for an adult, such as truancy), the court shall hold the detention hearing within 24 hours, rather than the current 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays in either case);
- a juvenile who is detained for committing a delinquent act is required to be represented at the detention hearing by counsel;
- if a juvenile has not retained counsel for a detention hearing, the court is to appoint counsel from the OSPD, or if there is a conflict, from the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel (ADC);

- appointments of counsel for a detention hearing will continue unless the juvenile retains his or her own counsel or the juvenile is charged with an offense for which the juvenile may waive counsel and the juvenile has made a knowing, intelligent, and voluntary waiver of his or her right to counsel;
- the time of the detention hearing must allow defense counsel sufficient time to consult with the juvenile, which may be performed by secure electronic means if confidentiality can be maintained; and
- representation by appointed counsel at a detention hearing does not, in itself, create a conflict in the event that such counsel is subsequently appointed to represent another individual on a related case.

***Advisements and appointment of counsel.*** After the detention hearing or at the first appearance if the juvenile appears on a notice to appear or summons, the court is required to advise the juvenile of his or her constitutional rights, including the right to counsel. The bill also specifies that:

- if the juvenile has not made an early application to OSPD (at least five days before the hearing), but requests counsel at the first appearance, the court shall determine if the juvenile is eligible;
- failure of a parent or guardian to apply for appointed counsel shall not be construed as a waiver of the right to counsel or other rights held by the juvenile;
- if the juvenile is eligible for appointed counsel and has not waived or obtained other counsel, or the court determines it would be in the juvenile's best interests, the court shall appoint counsel from the OSPD or ADC;
- if the court has appointed counsel but finds that the juvenile's parent or guardian does not qualify, the court will order reimbursement be made or waived;
- amounts for reimbursements for representation shall be set by the Supreme Court; and
- if there is a conflict between the juvenile and his or her parent or guardian, the court shall consider the juvenile's income and assets for determining whether to issue an order for reimbursement.

***Waivers of counsel.*** The bill establishes requirements for a juvenile to waive counsel and clarifies that a waiver of counsel is not permitted for cases involving a sex offense; a crime of violence; an offense for which the juvenile will receive a mandatory sentence; an offense for which the juvenile is being charged as a repeat, aggravated, or mandatory sentence offender; if the prosecuting attorney is seeking a direct file or transfer; or when the juvenile is in the custody of the state Department of Human Services or a county department of social services.

***Reporting.*** The Judicial Department, OSPD, and ADC are each required to report annually to the judiciary committees of the General Assembly regarding juvenile cases.

## **Background**

In FY 2012-13, there were 9,714 juvenile cases filed, including about 4,000 that appeared before the court for a detention hearing and the remainder who appeared as a result of a notice to appear or summons. Of this number, 360 cases were represented by a private attorney, 3,178 were represented by OSPD, and 1,235 were represented by ADC at some point during the case. The remaining 4,941 were not represented at any stage of the case. As of this writing, the reasons for lack of representation are not known.

**State Revenue**

Overall, this bill is not expected to alter the amount of revenue received when a person is determined not to be eligible for, but has received, services from court-appointed counsel. The bill directs the Supreme Court to establish, by rule, service costs for reimbursement. Currently this amount is assessed on a case-by-case basis. The fiscal note assumes that reimbursement amounts may become level or standard, but that overall reimbursement rates will not change.

**State Expenditures**

Overall, this bill will increase state expenditures by \$1,342,059 and 18.4 FTE in FY 2014-15 and by \$1,231,979 and 20.0 FTE in FY 2015-16. Table 1 and the discussion that follows describe the costs of HB14-1032.

<b>Table 1. Expenditures Under HB14-1032</b>		
<b>Cost Components</b>	<b>FY 2014-15</b>	<b>FY 2015-16</b>
<b>Office of the State Public Defender</b>	<b><u>\$1,466,608</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,481,475</u></b>
Personal Services	961,264	1,045,085
FTE	17.5	19.0
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	118,255	24,098
Travel	23,808	24,184
Attorney Registration	2,280	2,280
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	360,625	385,828
<b>Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel</b>		
Personal Services	98,230	109,245
FTE	0.9	1.0
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	5,653	950
Travel Costs	6,000	6,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	13,496	15,875
<b>Judicial Department</b>	<b><u>(\$248,018)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$381,566)</u></b>
Parent Refusal Cases	(248,018)	(381,566)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$1,342,059</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,231,979</u></b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>1,420,871</b>	<b>1,353,228</b>
<b>Cash Funds</b>	<b>(78,812)</b>	<b>(121,249)</b>

\* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

**Assumptions.** The fiscal note is based on the assumption that approximately two-thirds of the cases that are unrepresented will require counsel at some point in the case. In addition, OSPD or ADC will be required to provide representation at all detention hearings for which no private counsel has been appointed. Finally, the OSPD or ADC will provide counsel in place of private attorneys that are appointed by the trial courts in parent refusal cases (appointments made by the court when a parent doesn't qualify as indigent and does not secure counsel for the juvenile) or because there is a conflict between the juvenile and his or her parent. No costs will be incurred to enable attorneys to consult with juveniles by electronic means.

**Office of the State Public Defender.** The total caseload increase is assumed to be approximately 3,000 cases for OSPD. Costs for the OSPD are based on a weighted caseload of 250 cases per attorney, rather than the standard 193 cases per attorney, in order to account for the fact that not all juveniles will be represented for the entire length of the case. Costs for the OSPD also assume that an investigator is required for every 3.0 FTE attorneys and an administrative assistant is required for every 4.0 FTE attorneys. A total of 19.0 FTE are required, including 12.0 FTE attorneys, 4.0 FTE investigators, and 3.0 FTE administrative assistants. Total salary costs are \$1,045,205, which, along with FTE, are prorated in the first year to account for the General Fund pay date shift.

Standard operating and capital outlay costs are included for 11.0 FTE that will primarily be located in a fixed office. The other 8.0 FTE are assumed to be high-travel employees, which require additional costs for a mobile office set up and mobile telephone (\$1,706 for operating and \$5,303 for capital outlay costs per FTE). Annual travel costs are based on an assumption that fixed employees will have costs of \$832 per FTE and high-travel employees will have costs of \$1,879 per FTE. Attorney registration fees are provided for the 12.0 FTE at a cost of \$190 per FTE, per year. Workload will also increase to complete the required annual reporting, which can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel.** The ADC represents clients who are deemed indigent but cannot be represented by the OSPD without creating a conflict of interest. The fiscal note assumes that the ADC will provide support for about 185 cases at a cost of \$673 per case. This requires 1.0 FTE contracted attorney at an annual cost of \$109,245, prorated in the first year to account for the General Fund pay date shift. Standard operating (\$950 per FTE) and capital outlay costs (\$4,703 per FTE) are included, and travel costs are assumed to be \$6,000 per year. To the extent that additional cases are referred to the ADC, the fiscal note assumes additional appropriations may be requested through the annual budget process. Workload will also increase to complete the required annual reporting, which can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Judicial Department.** Overall, this bill will increase workload and decrease costs for the Judicial Department.

*Workload increases.* For a juvenile being held in detention on a warrant for violating a court order on a status offense, the court is required to hold the detention hearing within 24 hours, rather than the current 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays in either case). Trial courts are also required to make advisements concerning a juvenile's rights, including the right to counsel. The bill directs the Supreme Court to promulgate rules concerning reimbursements for persons found to be ineligible for court-appointed counsel. Screening personnel must provide notification of a juvenile being detained, as well as certain case information to the district attorneys and defense counsel. Finally, workload will also increase to complete the required annual reporting. These activities are not expected to require an increase in appropriations.

*Decreases in costs.* Under the bill, appointments made in parent refusal cases and where a conflict exists between the juvenile and his or her parent will be represented by the OSPD or ADC rather than by private counsel. The Judicial Department currently expends \$381,566 per year on these costs, including \$260,317 General Fund and \$121,249 cash funds. This amount is prorated to \$248,018, including \$169,206 General Fund and \$78,812 cash funds in the first year because a portion of costs in FY 2014-15 are assumed to be for cases originating in FY 2013-14.

**Centrally appropriated costs.** Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. The centrally appropriated costs subject to this policy are estimated in the fiscal note for informational purposes and summarized in Table 2.

<b>Table 2. Centrally Appropriated Costs Under HB14-1032*</b>		
<b>Cost Components</b>	<b>FY 2014-15</b>	<b>FY 2015-16</b>
Employee Insurance (Health, Life, Dental, and Short-term Disability)	\$134,441	\$146,135
Supplemental Employee Retirement Payments	73,582	89,470
Leased Space for OSPD only	166,098	166,098
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$374,121</b>	<b>\$401,703</b>

\*More information is available at: <http://colorado.gov/fiscalnotes>

### **Local Government Impact**

The bill requires local law enforcement agencies to provide a copy of the affidavit supporting probable cause and, if available, the arrest report to the court and to defense counsel. This increase in costs and workload is assumed to be minimal.

### **Effective Date**

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

### **State Appropriations**

For FY 2014-15, the Office of the State Public Defender requires an appropriation of \$1,105,983 General Fund and an allocation of 17.5 FTE. The Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel requires an appropriation of \$109,973 General Fund and an allocation of 0.9 FTE. The Judicial Department requires a reduction in appropriations of \$248,018, including \$169,206 General Fund and \$78,812 cash funds.

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties      District Attorneys      Sheriffs      Judicial      Municipalities  
Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel      Office of the State Public Defender