

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0530
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Newell
 Rep. Singer

Date: February 3, 2015
Bill Status: Senate Health & Human Services
Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

BILL TOPIC: FOSTER CARE & KIN CARE PLACEMENT BACKGROUND CHECKS

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal increase.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

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

Summary of Legislation

The bill reorganizes existing statute concerning foster care homes, adds new definitions concerning kinship foster care, and adds several new requirements and clarifications concerning background checks for certain types of kinship care homes. Among the new requirements, the bill requires that applicants to be a foster care home are screened against the state sex offender registry, standardizes the five types of background checks for adults residing in foster and kinship care homes, and makes changes concerning the process for background checks when initially placing a child in a temporary out-of-home placement. For temporary placements, counties must request that local law enforcement conduct an initial background check, and confirm that it has been done, within 15 days. The bill also specifies disqualifying offenses for foster and kinship care homes and directs the courts to check that all required background checks have been conducted when approving the out-of-home placement of a child.

State Expenditures

The bill has a minimal impact on state agencies, as described below.

Department of Human Services. The Department of Human Services may have a minimal increase in workload to update rules and procedures and provide guidance to county departments of human services concerning the changes in the bill. Any workload increase is expected to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Department of Public Safety. To the extent the bill increases the number of background checks by persons in kinship care homes as a result of greater compliance with current law, workload may increase in the Department of Public Safety. However, any net impact is assumed to be minimal and no adjustment in appropriation is required.

Judicial Department. The courts may have a minimal increase in workload to monitor whether or not background checks have been conducted when reviewing out-of-home placements. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government Impact

County departments of human services and local law enforcement may have increased workload under the bill as a result of more timely compliance with the existing background check requirements. The workload impact to local government may vary depending on their current practices for processing background checks for foster and kinship care homes, and whether or not they currently comply with the 15 day requirement for conducting certain background checks under the bill.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Human Services
Law
Sheriffs

Public Safety
Counties

Judicial
Municipalities