

## Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note



# STATE FISCAL IMPACT

**Drafting Number:** LLS 15-0536  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Singer  
 Sen. Hill

**Date:** March 19, 2015  
**Bill Status:** House Public Health Care and  
 Human Services  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Lauren Schreier (303-866-3523)

**BILL TOPIC:** CHILD WELFARE CHECK POTENTIAL FOSTER PARENTS

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$41,941</u></b>	<b><u>\$32,360</u></b>
General Fund	\$37,138	\$26,148
Centrally Appropriated Costs**	\$4,803	\$6,212
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	0.4 FTE	0.5 FTE
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> \$37,138 - Department of Human Services (FY 2015-16)		

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

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

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill permits one representative at each child placement agency in the state to access information concerning current or prospective foster parent, an adult residing in the home of a current or prospective foster parent, or a specialized group facility. The information that a representative of a child placement agency may access is limited to information concerning:

- whether a report of child abuse or neglect has been made regarding the person;
- the general nature of the alleged incident of child abuse or neglect, including the category of the allegation, and the name and relationship of the perpetrator and victim;
- whether the report of child abuse or neglect was screened for assessment;
- the outcome of any investigation, including an investigator's summary of the reason or reasons for his or her finding or conclusions; and
- child care and child welfare licensing history related to the individual.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) must monitor the access of the representative of each child placement agency in the state to ensure compliance.

**State Expenditures**

The bill will increase costs in the DHS by **\$41,941 and 0.4 FTE in FY 2015-16 and \$32,360 and 0.5 FTE in FY 2016-17**. These costs are outlined in Table 1 and described below.

<b>Table 1. Expenditures Under HB 15-1248</b>		
<b>Cost Components</b>	<b>FY 2015-16</b>	<b>FY 2016-17</b>
Personal Services	\$20,538	\$25,673
FTE	0.4 FTE	0.5 FTE
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	0	\$475
TRAILS System Enhancements	\$16,600	0
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$4,803	\$6,212
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$41,941</b>	<b>\$32,360</b>

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

**TRAILS enhancements.** The bill requires \$16,600 for the DHS to conduct programming enhancements to the TRAILS system. The TRAILS system is a central database maintained by the DHS to document all instances of child abuse and neglect cases in the state. TRAILS programming changes will require 200 hours of programming staff time at a cost of \$83 per hour. Programming enhancements will create new user profiles unique to each child placement agency, enhance the audit log capacity, and customize data usage reports for the DHS. This will allow TRAILS to permit limited access profiles for designated child placement agency staff and the DHS to monitor data access and usage among this new population.

**Staffing.** The DHS requires \$25,341 and 0.4 FTE in FY 2015-16 and \$32,360 and 0.5 FTE in FY 2016-17 for additional staff to monitor TRAILS usage and access among the 70 child placement agencies in the state. The DHS staff will also be responsible for investigating any potential misuse of the TRAILS database and ensuring compliance.

**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 HB 15-1248*</b>		
<b>Cost Components</b>	<b>FY 2015-16</b>	<b>FY 2016-17</b>
Employee Insurance (Health, Life, Dental, and Short-term Disability)	\$3,211	\$4,015
Supplemental Employee Retirement Payments	\$1,592	\$2,197
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,803</b>	<b>\$6,212</b>

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

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

**State Appropriations**

For FY 2015-16, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$41,941 and an allocation of 0.4 FTE to the Department of Human Services.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Human Services  
Law  
District Attorneys

Office of the Child's Representative  
Judicial

Counties  
Sheriff's