

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 109** SLS 19RS 356

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 23, 2019	5:05 PM	Author: BARROW
Dept./Agy.: DCFS		Analyst: Tanesha Morgan
Subject: Foster Care		

CHILDREN/FAMILY SERVICES DEPT OR +\$1,575,758 GF EX See Note
Provides relative to youth in the foster care program. (gov sig)

Page 1 of 2

Proposed law establishes an extended foster care program for youth who are at least 18 years old, but less than 21 years old. Proposed law provides for definitions, program eligibility, a voluntary placement agreement, a written court report, court jurisdiction, internal administrative reviews, program participation termination. Proposed law also provides for an extension of an adoption and guardianship subsidy for certain youths up to the age of 21.

EXPENDITURES	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$1,575,758	\$1,205,596	\$1,013,096	\$1,013,096	\$1,013,096	\$5,820,642
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$1,575,758	\$1,205,596	\$1,013,096	\$1,013,096	\$1,013,096	\$5,820,642
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$3,151,516	\$2,411,192	\$2,026,192	\$2,026,192	\$2,026,192	\$11,641,284

REVENUES	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This measure is anticipated to increase the expenses of DCFS by a maximum of \$3,151,516 in FY 20 and annualized in future fiscal years. The measure extends foster care (\$2,887,322 new and existing population), adoption assistance (\$227,512), and guardianship assistance (\$36,682) to age 21 for certain youths, creating a new population of foster, adopted, and youth under guardianship that may be eligible for services and subsidies from DCFS. Participation in the program is voluntary. The fiscal note assumes 100% participation. To the extent that a youth elects not to participate in extended services, then the total cost will be reduced by \$34,703 per youth, per year for extended foster care; \$4,841 per youth, per year for extended adoption assistance; and \$3,625 per youth, per year for extended guardianship assistance. Cost associated with these services are anticipated to be funded with 50% State General Fund and 50% Federal Funds.

DCFS anticipates modeling the extended foster care program after the Youth Villages LifeSet program, as recommended in the Task Force on Extending the Age of Foster Care to 21's final report on SCR 10 of 2018. The Youth Villages LifeSet program uses small caseloads and weekly face-to-face sessions with foster youths. To implement this model, DCFS anticipates hiring 2 Child Welfare Consultants (\$96,318 salaries and benefits), 9 Child Welfare Service Assistants (\$29,616 salaries and benefits) and 9 Peer Mentors (\$16,507 salaries and benefits) to manage the additional workload. The cost of the additional employees have been captured in the tables below.

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REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Evan Brasseaux
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Staff Director

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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:
Expenditure explanation continued from Page 1

Extended foster care - Cost of New Population

This bill extends foster care to the age of 21, under certain conditions. The average cost to provide foster care is \$2,836.44 per month, for a total of \$34,703 per year. Based on this average, the projected cost to serve this new population is as follows:

Year	Increase # served	x	Annual cost per youth	=	Total Projected Cost*
FY 20	45	x	\$34,703	=	\$ 1,533,298
FY 21	18	x	\$34,703	=	\$ 613,319
FY 22	7	x	\$34,703	=	\$ 238,513
FY 23	7	x	\$34,703	=	\$ 238,513
FY 24	7	x	\$34,703	=	\$ 238,513

*This projection assumes 12 full months of foster care. However, to the extent that the youth exits extended foster care sooner because he has reached the age of 21 during the fiscal year, then the total cost will be reduced \$2,836 per youth, per month.

Extended foster care - Cost of Existing Population

Act 649 of 2018 provided that a foster child that is a full-time high school student can remain in foster care until he reaches the age of 21 or graduates from high school or equivalent. The additional annual cost to provide services for this population under the Youth Villages LifeSet program is \$7,737 per youth. In FY 20, this cost is estimated to be \$1,354,024 (175 youths x \$7,737) and \$1,462,346 in future fiscal years (189 youths x \$7,737).

Note: The bill does not require the use of the Youth Villages LifeSet program. However, this is the program that DCFS anticipates using as recommended by Task Force on Extending the Age of Foster Care to 21.

Extended adoption assistance

This bill extends adoption assistance to the age of 21 for certain youth that were adopted at age 16 or over. The average cost to provide adoption assistance is \$403.39 per month, for a total of \$4,841 per year. Based on this average, the cost to serve this new population is as follows:

Year	Increase # served	x	Annual cost per youth	=	Total Projected Cost*
FY 20	47	x	\$4,841	=	\$227,512
FY 21	57	x	\$4,841	=	\$275,919
FY 22	53	x	\$4,841	=	\$256,556
FY 23	53	x	\$4,841	=	\$256,556
FY 19	53	x	\$4,841	=	\$256,556

*This projection assumes 12 full months of adoption assistance. However, to the extent that the youth exits extended adoption assistance sooner because he has reached the age of 21 during the fiscal year, then the total cost will be reduced \$403 per youth, per month.

Extended guardianship assistance

This bill extends guardianship assistance to the age of 21 for certain youth that entered guardianship at age 16 or over. The average cost to provide guardianship assistance is \$382.10 per month, for a total of \$3,625 per year. Based on this average, the projected cost to serve this new population is as follows:

Year	Increase # served	x	Annual cost per youth	=	Total Projected Cost*
FY 20	8	x	\$3,625	=	\$36,682
FY 21	13	x	\$3,625	=	\$59,608
FY 22	15	x	\$3,625	=	\$68,778
FY 23	15	x	\$3,625	=	\$68,778
FY 19	15	x	\$3,625	=	\$68,778

*This projection assumes 12 full months of guardianship assistance. However, to the extent that the youth exits extended guardianship assistance sooner because he has reached the age of 21 during the fiscal year, then the total cost will be reduced \$382 per youth, per month.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

- 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
- 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House

- 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
- 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

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