



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 41** SLS 25RS 80  
Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**  
Opp. Chamb. Action:  
  
Proposed Amd.:  
Sub. Bill For.:

|   |         |                               |
|---|---------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b> June 11, 2025                                    | 2:42 PM | <b>Author:</b> BARROW         |
| <b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Department of Children and Family Services |         |                               |
| <b>Subject:</b> Provides relative to child welfare            |         | <b>Analyst:</b> Tamiko Stroud |

CHILDREN

EN INCREASE GF EX See Note

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Provides relative to child welfare. (8/1/25)

Proposed legislation requires all nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs to be licensed as early learning centers and apply by January 1, 2026. The proposed legislation prohibits a person whose name is recorded on the state central registry (SCR) on or after August 1, 2018 from participating in the governance of certain child-related services and being hired by certain school boards, nonpublic schools, and school systems. Proposed legislation requires certain school boards to dismiss certain school employees whose name is recorded on the SCR on or after August 1, 2025. Proposed legislation requires compliance with child safety and welfare minimum standards no later than October 1, 2025. Proposed legislation requires the Dept. of Education (LDOE) to publish all child-related business violations on its website. Proposed legislation changes certain definitions. Proposed legislation provides additional certain circumstances in which DCFS or local/state law enforcement must be contacted by mandatory reporters and requires certain action by DCFS and local/state law enforcement upon the receipt of a mandatory reporter’s report of abuse. Proposed legislation requires DCFS to assess the family of the victim child and the alleged perpetrator child in any sexual abuse cases. Proposed legislation does not require school employees to pay certain fees. Proposed legislation shall be known as “Charlie’s Law.”

| EXPENDITURES   | 2025-26  | 2026-27  | 2027-28  | 2028-29  | 2029-30  | 5 -YEAR TOTAL |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| State Gen. Fd. | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE |               |
| Agy. Self-Gen. | \$0      | \$0      | \$0      | \$0      | \$0      | \$0           |
| Ded./Other     | \$0      | \$0      | \$0      | \$0      | \$0      | \$0           |
| Federal Funds  | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE |               |
| Local Funds    | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE |               |
| Annual Total   |          |          |          |          |          |               |

| REVENUES       | 2025-26  | 2026-27  | 2027-28  | 2028-29  | 2029-30  | 5 -YEAR TOTAL |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| State Gen. Fd. | \$0      | \$0      | \$0      | \$0      | \$0      | \$0           |
| Agy. Self-Gen. | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE |               |
| 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   |          |          |          |          |          |               |

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed legislation will result in a significant increase in annual expenditures as a result of additional staffing and resources required in two (2) separate agencies, including \$877,792 SGF for the LA Dept. of Education (LDOE) and \$1 M (\$827,696 SGF and \$216,635 Federal) and 4 additional T.O. in FY 26 and \$20,000 annually thereafter for the Dept. of Children and Family Services. The original sources of funding are Title IV-B, Title IV-E, and SSBG.

LA Department of Education (LDOE)

The LDOE reports the proposed legislation will require an expenditure increase of \$877,792 SGF in FY 26 to fund eight (8) authorized positions to monitor and inspect the 254 nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs currently unlicensed as early learning centers. The department reports when the funding and T.O.’s become available, the department will hire the positions listed below.

The department reports the need for six (6) Licensing Specialists I/II to conduct inspections and monitor an additional 254 nonpublic programs; one (1) Licensing Supervisor to train specialists, review inspection reports for accuracy, and conduct onsite quality monitoring; and one (1) Licensing Consultant to review initial, renewal, and changing licensing applications and conduct consultations regarding compliance with LA Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations. The department reports the estimated number of employees was based on a caseload of approximately fifty (50) sites per Licensing Specialist, five (5) Licensing Specialists per Licensing Supervisor, and two hundred and fifty (250) sites per Licensing Consultant. The department reports that an additional Licensing Specialist is required to accommodate the distance between early learning sites as the geographic spread can require additional staff members.

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| LDOE Expenditures                                 | Costs     |
| Positions (include salaries and related benefits) |           |
| Licensing Specialists I/II (6)                    | \$533,292 |
| Licensing Supervisor (1)                          | \$108,878 |
| Licensing Consultant (1)                          | \$108,878 |
| Other   |           |
| Operating Expenses                                | \$126,744 |
| Total   | \$877,792 |

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REVENUE EXPLANATION

LA Dept. of Education (LDOE)

LDOE reports an anticipated revenue increase of \$6,350 SGR from collecting licensing fees received from nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs due to the proposed law requiring these programs to be licensed as early learning centers. The department identified 254 nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs without a license that will incur a cost of \$25 per program upon enactment.

|  |                     |  |   |
|--|---------------------|--|---|
| Senate   | Dual Referral Rules | House  |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H} |                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}      |                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S} |   |
|  |                     |  | <div>Patrice Thomas</div> Deputy Fiscal Officer |



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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:** Page 2 of 2

**LA Department of Education (LDOE) cont.**

The proposed legislation requires all pre-kindergarten programs to comply with child safety and welfare minimum standards. Proposed legislation requires designated separate restrooms for students enrolled in the pre-kindergarten programs or early learning centers constructed after January 1, 2026. To the extent new facilities are constructed after January 1, 2026, the LEAs may incur costs for construction of separate bathrooms. The department reports that the expenditure amount would depend on the number of new facilities constructed after January 1, 2026, and is indeterminable.

The proposed legislation also requires LDOE to develop an informational document that contains safety and child welfare minimum standards and provide written notification to the superintendent of the school district for any complaint received by the department regarding a pre-kindergarten program in the district. LDOE reports these services align with its current governance structure of public school systems. LDOE reports the department will absorb the cost of providing these products and services with current funds and resources.

**Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**


DCFS reports the proposed legislation will require an expenditure increase of \$1 M (\$827,696 SGF and \$216,635 Federal) and four (4) additional T.O. in FY 26 and \$20,000 annually thereafter to: 1) perform additional state central registry clearances for school employees and 2) upgrade technology systems to include new verbiage and requirements of proposed law. Each report for additional funding and employees has been itemized below:

(1) DCFS reports the need for \$434,331 (\$343,121 SGF and \$91,210 Federal) to fund three (3) T.O. positions and one (1) WAE to perform state central registry clearance on school employees who are hired on or after August 1, 2025, which is required by proposed legislation. The department estimates that there are 100,000 teachers and school employees (public and private) in the state that will require SCR clearances to be conducted by DCFS. The three (3) FTE positions and one (1) WAE position reported consist of: two (2) Program Specialists (2 FTE), one (1) Program Specialist (WAE), and one (1) Attorney 3 (1 FTE). The department reports that three specialists, including the WAE, would be responsible for conducting child abuse background clearances during peak hiring times for school employees (May through August). The specialists are expected to complete an average of 8,750 clearances annually (150-200 per week out of 50 weeks). The department expects the specialists to complete 20,000 SCR clearances annually, after applying a 20% turnover rate. The department reports these additional SCR clearances will result in an indeterminable increase in administrative appeals for substantiated findings of child abuse or neglect for school employees, which are handled by the department’s due process attorneys. The LFO cannot corroborate the department’s report of increased funding and T.O., and believes the department may be able to utilize existing staff and resources to support these functions.

(2) DCFS reports the need for \$610,000 (\$484,575 SGF and \$125,425 Federal) in FY 26 and \$20,000 annually thereafter to update Child Welfare’s technological systems, such as Child Abuse and Neglect Clearance System (CANS) and A Comprehensive Enterprise Social Services (ACESS) to recognize school employees receiving state central registry clearances, change verbiage from valid/invalid to substantiated/unsubstantiated, expand system selection for caretakers, create assessment to investigation workflow, and track the number of abuse/neglect intakes referred to law enforcement. The LFO cannot corroborate as proposed law does not require the technological enhancement of platforms to perform these functions.

Senate  
☒ 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}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**