

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 420** HLS 26RS 678

Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 2, 2026	12:10 PM	Author: BERAULT
Dept./Agy.: Children & Family Services		Analyst: John McKay
Subject: Background Checks and SCR Search on DCFS Employees		

CHILDREN/DCFS EG INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to obtain background checks on all employees

Present law authorizes the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to conduct criminal background checks and search the State Central Registry (SCR) for substantiated abuse or neglect reports before hiring prospective employees, whose job duties include the investigation of child abuse or neglect, supervisory or disciplinary authority over children, direct care of a child, or performance of licensing surveys. Proposed law extends this authorization to all current and prospective employees, regardless of their job duties.

Present law prohibits DCFS from hiring a prospective employee whose job duties include the investigation of child abuse or neglect, supervisory or disciplinary authority over children, direct care of a child, or performance of licensing surveys if the employee's name is recorded in the State Central Registry as a substantiated report of abuse or neglect. Proposed law extends this prohibition to all current and prospective employees, regardless of their job duties.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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 law will increase SGF and Federal expenditures in the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to conduct criminal background checks (CBC) on all its current employees and prospective employees. The proposed law requires DCFS to conduct CBCs and search the State Central Registry (SCR) on all its employees and prospective employees.

The LA Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information within State Police administers the LA Applicant Processing System (LAPS), a statewide network of fingerprint sites where applicants can submit digital fingerprints within their local communities. Fingerprint-based background checks can be performed by State Police, local Sheriff Offices, and Identogo, a third-party service vendor. The fee is between \$43 to \$54.50 depending on who performs the CBC. See the Revenue Explanation below for the fee breakdown.

DCFS estimates increased expenditures (67% SGF/33% Federal) of \$112,870 in FY 27 to conduct CBCs on all its current employees (2,071 employees as of 3/17/26 x \$54.50) and \$32,155 (590 average new hires x \$54.50) in subsequent fiscal years to conduct CBCs on an average of 590 prospective employees. Under present law, DCFS is required to conduct background checks on employees whose duties involve children or licensing. The department did not exclude these employees who should already have existing background checks from its estimate. Also, the estimate of \$54.50 is the fee charged at Identogo sites, the most expensive option to perform background checks. **The LFO cannot corroborate the department's estimated costs. The LFO anticipates that the number of current employees requiring a CBC is lower than the estimated 2,071; and CBCs can be performed by local Sheriff Offices or State Police at a lower cost of \$43.**

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will increase SGR revenue in the Office of State Police as a result of increased criminal background checks conducted on all current employees and prospective employees of DCFS. Proposed law requires DCFS to conduct CBCs on all employees and prospective employees of the department. State Police charges \$26 for state background checks plus \$12 for federal background checks, which State Police retains \$2 of the \$12 fee charged and remits the remainder to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The expected increase in CBCs requested will result in additional fees collected by State Police. Based on the department's estimate, State Police could expect an additional \$57,988 (\$28 x 2,071) in FY 27 and \$16,520 (\$28 x 590) in subsequent fiscal years.

Criminal Background Check (CBC) Fees

- \$26 - LA State Police, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information (state background check)
- \$ 5 - LA Sheriffs' Association (technology fee on state background checks)
- \$10 - Federal Bureau of Investigation (federal background check with fingerprints)
- \$ 2 - LA State Police (federal background check)
- \$43 - Total**
- \$11.50 - Identogo, vendor fee
- \$54.50 - Total**

Note: Although proposed law requires DCFS to search the State Central Registry (SCR) in addition to conducting criminal background checks, the department maintains the registry. Therefore, the fiscal note does not anticipate any revenue or expenditure impact to DCFS for searching its own registry. DCFS typically collects a \$25 fee for SCR checks.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input 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}


Patrice Thomas
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