



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 237** SLS 26RS 9
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 27, 2026	4:52 PM	Author: BARROW
Dept./Agy.: Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Education		Analyst: Patrice Thomas
Subject: Child Welfare		

CHILDREN OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides relative to child welfare. (8/1/26)

Proposed law requires all school principals/administrators to immediately report to the LA Department of Education (LDOE) if an allegation of physical or sexual abuse of a student has been made against a school employee; law enforcement to notify LDOE of the disposition of any investigation involving a school employee; LDOE to maintain a database of all reports and the disposition of each report received from law enforcement; and all schools to check the database before hiring any employee. Proposed law requires the state child ombudsman to notify, without identifying information, senators/representatives when a child in their district is the subject of an alleged child abuse or neglect investigation; expands notifications, with specific information, that DCFS must report to the state child ombudsman – upon receiving information and after the conclusion of the investigation; and authorizes the ombudsman to have unrestricted remote access to view records on DCFS’s computer networks/systems. Proposed law adds testimony, with identifying information and explicit details related to physical or sexual abuse of children, in executive session. Proposed law requires DCFS to establish law enforcement liaison positions in each region; disclose certain information to law enforcement, and limit information to parents/guardians if they are the alleged perpetrator. Proposed law requires a forensic interview by a child advocacy center (CAC) within 72 hours, and CAC to notify the multidisciplinary investigative team (MDT) within 24 hours. Proposed law requires all mandatory reporters to complete annual training provided by DCFS. Proposed law requires reporters to report all suspected child abuse or neglect to DCFS and requires DCFS to either investigate or refer the report to law enforcement.

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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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.	\$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

Proposed law will significantly increase expenditures and positions in the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the LA Department of Education (LDOE). There is no anticipated material impact on schools, the State Child Ombudsman (LA Legislative Auditor), law enforcement agencies, district courts, district attorneys, or the Office of Attorney General.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) - Proposed law requires DCFS to do the following: (1) increases notification of child fatalities or near fatalities to the State Child Ombudsman within three business days, and notification to include certain information; (2) allows the State Child Ombudsman unrestricted remote access to the department’s child welfare case management systems including certain reports and assessments; (3) creates new law enforcement liaison positions for each region; (4) requires the department to accept all reports of child abuse or neglect to the Child Safety Response Center (CSRC), child welfare hotline; (5) requires child abuse in a school setting to be reported to DCFS; (6) requires the department to accept sex abuse cases in which the alleged perpetrator is a child; (7) requires DCFS to notify reporter of alleged abuse/neglect to the specific law enforcement agency where the report was referred; and (8) requires the department to “immediately” investigate all reports deemed to be of high and intermediate level of risk.

DCFS reports that the proposed law will increase expenditures by \$89,805,775 (\$62,864,043 SGF and \$26,941,733 Federal) and 688 T.O. positions beginning in FY 27, with a 4% increase for market rate adjustments and related benefits for positions in future fiscal years. The department estimates the proposed law will significantly increase calls and intake reports to the CSRC hotline, which will result in increased investigations that will require additional positions and increased operating costs, such as new vehicles with GPS and IT systems enhancements and upgrades. DCFS estimates the need for 688 T.O. positions with salaries and related benefits (\$66,484,226). Other recurring costs include operating expenses (\$344,000) and other charges (\$1,053,900), as well as one-time expenditures in FY 27 for 761 new vehicles for existing and new staff (\$21,923,649 = \$28,809 x 761). The department estimates an indeterminable increase for IT system enhancements by the Office of Technology Services (OTS) to generate notices and produce a print file. In subsequent fiscal years, the fiscal note presumes a 4% increase in salaries and related benefits for market rate adjustments as the positions will be classified. See the expenditure table on Page 2.

The LFO cannot corroborate the increased workload predicted by the department. To the extent the additional workload is less than DCFS anticipates, the additional workload may be absorbable, either wholly or partially, using existing staff and resources, or may be achievable with fewer than 688 positions. To the extent these procedures could possibly be integrated into existing processes, or by a new IT solution, the need for additional staff may be mitigated.

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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}

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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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EXPENDITURE Explanation Continued from Page 1

Department of Children and Family Services

Expenditures

Position Title	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 30-31	Total
Child Welfare Specialist 3 (580)	\$54,866,937	\$62,249,034	\$64,738,995	\$67,328,555	\$70,021,697	\$319,205,217
Child Welfare Specialist Supervisor (83)	\$8,826,199	\$10,013,724	\$10,414,273	\$10,830,844	\$11,264,078	\$51,349,119
Child Welfare Manager 1 (15)	\$1,908,060	\$2,164,781	\$2,251,372	\$2,341,427	\$2,435,084	\$11,100,724
Investigative Specialist 3 (9)	\$783,585	\$889,013	\$924,573	\$961,556	\$1,000,018	\$4,558,746
Investigative Specialist Supervisor (1)	\$99,445	\$112,824	\$117,337	\$122,031	\$126,912	\$578,549
Personal Services Sub-Total	\$66,484,226	\$75,429,376	\$78,446,551	\$81,584,413	\$84,847,789	\$386,792,355
Operating Expenses	\$344,000	\$344,000	\$344,000	\$344,000	\$344,000	\$1,720,000
Other Charges	\$1,053,900	\$1,053,900	\$1,053,900	\$1,053,900	\$1,053,900	\$5,269,500
Acquisitions (Equipment)	\$21,923,649	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,200	\$21,924,849
Total	\$89,805,775	\$76,827,276	\$79,844,451	\$82,982,313	\$86,246,889	\$415,706,704
T.O. Positions	688	688	688	688	688	688

LA Department of Education (LDOE) - Proposed law requires LDOE to maintain a database of all alleged reports of physical and sexual abuse of a student by a school employee. Also, the database shall include the disposition of each report received from law enforcement. LDOE will utilize an existing database used for teacher certification and make technical enhancements to this database to collect alleged reports and track dispositions. Enhancing the existing database is estimated to cost approximately \$154,000. To the extent that law enforcement plans to send automatic notifications or complete updates directly into the database system, there will be an additional, yet indeterminable, one-time cost for system enhancements. Also, LDOE reports needing a position, Educational Consultant 2 (\$105,650), to handle ongoing programmatic and compliance functions (\$14,791) with the database, as well as tracking dispositions of investigations by law enforcement. In subsequent fiscal years, the fiscal note presumes a 4% increase in salaries and related benefits for market rate adjustments as the positions will be classified, and 5% increase in operating expenses for general inflation. See the expenditure table below.

Position Title	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 30-31	Total
Education Consultant 2	\$105,650	\$109,876	\$114,271	\$118,842	\$123,596	\$572,234
Personal Services Sub-Total	\$105,650	\$109,876	\$114,271	\$118,842	\$123,596	\$572,234
Operating Expenses	\$14,791	\$15,531	\$16,307	\$17,122	\$17,979	\$81,730
Professional Services (IT Enhancements)	\$154,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$154,000
Total	\$274,441	\$125,407	\$130,578	\$135,964	\$141,574	\$807,964
T.O. Positions	1	1	1	1	1	1

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
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