

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1609 - SB 1603

March 15, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to, within the limits of available funding, provide financial assistance to relative caregivers of up to 82 percent of the full foster rate for the care of a dependent child if following criteria is met:

- The child has not been placed in state custody;
- The relative caregiver meets certain criteria;
- The child is at risk of entering state custody;
- The relative caregiver agrees to seek the establishment and enforcement of child support, including, but not limited to, the naming of the father of a child for purposes of paternity establishment, unless good cause not to cooperate exists, as defined by the Department by rule;
- The relative caregiver agrees to participate in any programs offered by the Department to reduce the risk of the child entering state custody;
- The relative caregiver has provided fingerprint samples and submitted to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- The relative caregiver has provided personal and professional references;
- The Department has conducted a home visit of the relative caregiver and interviewed the relative caregiver and any persons who reside in the relative caregiver's home; and
- The relative caregiver cooperates with any activities required by the Department to reduce the likelihood that the child will enter state custody, such as counseling, therapy or court sessions, or visits with family members.

Establishes that any such payment is subject to initial and recurring eligibility of the relative caregiver. The DCS may establish additional requirements for such payment; however, DCS cannot require that a child is in the custody of the Department.

Requires the DCS to file an annual report following each calendar year of the program.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$31,801,100/FY20-21
\$31,793,600/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions:

- The financial support required of this legislation is not currently offered by the DCS.
- Current contracts with providers do not require long-term management; therefore, this legislation would require significant changes and increases in services required from the provider in order to assure compliance with the program and that placement is still in the best interest of the child.
- The 3-year average population within foster care is 3,805.
- Estimated population at ages from 0 to 11 years of age is 2,283 and 1,522 for ages 12 and up.
- FY20-21 daily foster care rate for ages 0 to 11 years of age is \$26.22.
- 82 percent of such rate is \$21.50 ($\$26.22 \times 82\%$).
- An increase in state expenditures in FY20-21 of \$17,915,843 (2,283 individuals \times $\$21.50 \times 365$ days).
- FY20-21 daily foster care rate for 12 years of age and up is \$30.06.
- 82 percent of such rate is \$24.65 ($\$30.06 \times 82\%$).
- An increase in state expenditures in FY20-21 of \$13,693,815 (1,522 individuals \times $\$24.65 \times 365$ days).
- Based on information provided by the DCS, it will require three additional program coordinators to effectively carryout the provisions of this legislation.
- An increase in state expenditures in FY20-21 of \$183,962 (salary \$139,900 + benefits \$42,262 + supplies \$1,800) and a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$7,500 (computers \$3,000 + miscellaneous \$4,500).
- An increase in state expenditures in FY20-21 exceeding \$31,801,120 ($\$17,915,843 + \$13,693,815 + \$183,962 + \$7,500$).
- An increase in state expenditures in FY21-22 and subsequent years of \$31,793,620 ($\$17,915,843 + \$13,693,815 + \$183,962$).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jdb