OLR Bill Analysis
HB 6169

AN ACT INCREASING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES RAISING NEEDY CHILDREN.

SUMMARY

This bill generally increases the temporary family assistance (TFA) payment to families with a head of household who is (1) a nonparent caretaker relative (e.g., grandparent) and (2) the legal guardian of a child. It does this by making the TFA payment 75% of the prevailing monthly foster care rate for families with the same number of children.

Generally, nonparent caretaker relatives may qualify for financial assistance through the departments of children and families (DCF) or social services (DSS). Those who become guardians of foster children through DCF (i.e., Subsidized Guardianship Program) receive a larger payment than those who are guardians of children not involved in the child welfare system and receive a TFA payment for the child from DSS.

DCF payments equal the prevailing monthly foster care rate, which varies based on the child's age and medical condition. TFA payments vary by family size and geographic region. By fixing TFA payments to foster care rates, which do not vary geographically, the bill eliminates regional variation in payments to such families.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 13  Nay 0  (02/20/2019)