

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6576

AN ACT STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR GRANDPARENTS AND
OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	At least \$16.7 million	At least \$16.7 million

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill will result in a cost of at least \$16.7 million in FY 24 and FY 25 to the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Temporary Family Assistance Program (TFA).

This bill increases the payment standard for families whose head of household is: (1) a nonparent caretaker relative and (2) the legal guardian of a child, to 100% of a foster care rate. The bill does not specify which category of foster care reimbursement rate the TFA payment standard will be indexed to. Assuming the average monthly foster care rate of \$819, the bill will result in an increased annual cost to DSS of at least \$16.7 million. Current average monthly TFA rates for family units range from \$489 for a family with one child to an average of \$1,005 for a family with between three and five children. The cost to the state will be more for children with higher needs and associated services. For context, the average monthly foster care rate for a child with medically complex needs is approximately \$1,578.

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The actual cost will depend on: (1) the number of individuals impacted and (2) the foster care rate used as the basis for the TFA payment.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to: (1) the number of individuals impacted and (2) the foster care rate used as the basis for the TFA payment.

*Sources: Department of Children and Families Foster Care Subsidies
Department of Social Services Caseload Information*