

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 123 - A

Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Requires Department of Human Services to adopt rules to establish Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2013-15 Biennium	2015-17 Biennium
General Fund	\$87,412	\$107,795
Federal Funds	95,920	116,791
Total Funds	\$183,332	\$224,586
Positions	1	1
FTE	0.75	1.00

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

House Bill 123 A-Engrossed requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights. DHS must ensure that each foster child has certain essential rights including (1) the ability to complain about unsatisfactory or inappropriate care and placement services without fear of retaliation; (2) transportation to court and citizen review board hearings; and age-appropriate, up-to-date written information regarding how and to whom the foster child may contact with complaints. The bill requires DHS to establish a hotline available to foster children at all times to allow foster children to make complaints regarding their care, safety and well-being. DHS must provide a transition toolkit, and the following written information to foster children 14 years old or older:

- How to establish bank accounts, and obtain a copy of a credit report.
- How to acquire a driver license.
- How to remain in foster care after reaching 18 years of age;
- The availability of tuition and fee waiver for foster children.
- How to obtain medical, dental, vision and mental health services.

DHS must provide age-appropriate information regarding the existence of the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights, including posting this information in residences; foster homes, licensed agencies. The bill also requires DHS to conduct an annual review of the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights with each foster child.

The Department of Human Services estimates the fiscal impact of this bill to be \$183,332 Total Funds and 0.75 FTE for the 2013-15 biennium; and \$224,586 Total Funds and 1.00 FTE for the 2015-17 biennium. Should this bill become law, DHS anticipates adding one Operations and Policy Analyst 3 position in the Governor's Advocacy Office to answer the hotline calls. The expenditure impact also

includes training costs, as well as the cost of creating, printing and distributing the transition toolkits and other written informational materials required by the bill listed above.

In addition to the printing costs, and the cost of staffing the hotline, DHS may incur additional costs in the future as the licensed child placing agencies contracts are updated to reflect the requirements of this bill. At this time, the Department of Human Services cannot predict the fiscal impact of this cost.