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Measure Description:

Mandates how child abuse investigations must be conducted until certain specified conditions are met by the Department of Human Services. Requires the Department of Human Services to conduct an exit interview with a child or ward before the department removes the child or ward from substitute care placement.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2017-19 Biennium	2019-21 Biennium
Personal Services	123,218	150,688
Services and Supplies	67,696	46,708
Total General Fund	\$190,914	\$197,396
Personal Services	123,218	150,688
Services and Supplies	67,215	46,120
Total Federal Funds	\$190,433	\$196,808
Personal Services	246,436	301,376
Services and Supplies	134,911	92,828
TOTAL FUNDS	\$381,347	\$394,204
Positions	2	2
FTE	1.64	2.00

Analysis:

Senate Bill 942 mandates how all child abuse investigations must be conducted and must result in specified findings until certain specified conditions are met by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The bill requires DHS to conduct an exit interview with a child or ward before Department removes the child or ward from substitute care placement. The bill details the minimum requirements of the exit interview. The bill takes effect on passage.

DHS estimates the fiscal impact of this bill to be \$381,347 Total Funds, 2 positions, and 1.64 FTE for the 2017-19 Biennium. If this bill passes, DHS anticipates establishing two Social Services Specialist 1 positions to work with existing staff to handle the additional workload associated with the more formalized exit interviews required by the provisions of this bill. Operationally, the exit interview activities would be added to the individual casework of existing staff with the position authority used to increase capacity across the program for performing that work. In order to document the specific data required to be captured in exit interviews, DHS will need to modify its ORKids system. The services and supplies category includes \$52,218 Total Funds to perform this work.