

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 7645

BILL NUMBER: HB 1404

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 13, 2025

BILL AMENDED: Feb 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Parental Support Services.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. DeVon

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill requires the governing body of a school corporation to adopt rules establishing a safety plan that provides steps for the school corporation to request assistance from the Department of Child Services (DCS) to ensure a student is receiving appropriate intervention.

The bill also requires a preventative services provider to immediately report to the DCS if: (1) an individual to whom the preventative services provider is providing preventative services is not substantively participating in the services; and (2) the individual presents an immediate risk to the safety of a child.

The bill requires the DCS to initiate an assessment not later than five days after receiving a report from school personnel regarding alleged child abuse or neglect. It allows the DCS to release unredacted reports to a school's designated liaison under certain circumstances. It also adds bullying or abusive behavior as a factor for finding a child to be a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) if other specified circumstances are met.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) This bill changes the reporting requirements for suspected instances of child abuse and neglect from schools and from preventative services providers. These provisions could increase reporting to DCS and thus increase investigative workloads. The bill may also impact the number of identified CHINS cases and associated workload in the state. The DCS may need to hire additional staff and/or fill from existing vacancies. [As of November 2024, the DCS had approximately 880 vacant family case manager positions statewide, an increase of 50 over the year.]

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill impacts workload for the governing bodies of school corporations to modify rules regarding participation in disciplinary action by persons caring for dependent students. It adds a requirement for a safety plan that provides steps for students and parents to receive appropriate services from the DCS. This is anticipated to be accomplished with existing resources.

(Revised) Local units providing preventative services may have increased workload to meet the reporting requirements of the bill. This can be accomplished with existing resources.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Child Services.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations, Local units providing preventative services.

Information Sources: State Personnel Department Staffing Data.

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