

## **SB 557 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Human Services**

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**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/22

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish and administer the Youth Support and Repayment Grant Program to award grants to persons whose Social Security benefits, death benefits, survivor benefits, crime victim impact payments, or any other benefits or resources intended for the person, were seized and used by the state to pay for services provided to the person that would otherwise have been entitled or eligible through any state or federal agency or public or private program. Specifies permitted use of grant awards.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

State welfare agencies use funding from a variety of federal sources to support children in foster care, mostly the federal foster care program authorized by Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. The program is jointly funded by the federal government and states and is administered by the Children’s Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Congressional Research Service analysis of 2019 fiscal year data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System finds that about 27,000 children in foster care (5.3 percent of all children in foster care) were receiving Social Security Income benefits or Social Security benefits, and a larger number may be eligible to receive these benefits. Children qualify for these federal benefits based on their own disabilities and for Social Security based on the retirement, disability, or death of an insured parent. A 2021 Congressional Research Service report states that for the 2018 fiscal year, 38 states and the District of Columbia had access to about \$179 million in SSI/Social Security benefits received on behalf of children in foster care to offset child welfare agency foster care costs.

Senate Bill 557 would establish the Youth Support and Repayment Grant Program to award grants to persons whose Social Security benefits, death benefits, survivor benefits, crime victim impact payments, or any other benefits were seized and used by the state.