

FISCAL NOTE

This bill contains an appropriation of \$4,050,000 from the GENERAL FUND to the proposed Office of Parent Counsel.

This bill contains an authorization of 8 full-time position(s).

DETAIL OF APPROPRIATION

Agency #: 101 Agency Name: Supreme Court
 Unit: Office of Parent Counsel

EXPENDITURE BY SERIES AND YEAR	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
0100 Personnel/Benefit Costs	\$0	\$696,107	\$696,107
0200 Supportive Services Costs	\$0	\$94,968	\$94,968
0400 Central/Data Services Costs	\$0	\$33,873	\$33,873
0900 Contractual Services Costs	\$0	\$1,200,052	\$1,200,052
 Total Expenditure Per Year:	 \$0	 \$2,025,000	 \$2,025,000
 Grand Total Expenditure:	 \$4,050,000		
Total Appropriated to Agency:	\$4,050,000		
Total Appropriated by Fund:			
GENERAL FUND	\$4,050,000		

Description of Appropriation:

This appropriation would be expended to create the Office of Parent Control (Office) and Family Preservation Advisory Board (Board). The purpose of the new Office and Board is to provide court-appointed legal representation for parents, guardians or custodians in certain child protection cases and actions. The estimate presented in the table above is based on the Guardian Ad Litem unit within the Office of the Public Defender, and assumes expenditures will be 75% from the General Fund and 25% from the counties.

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
NON-ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT			
Anticipated Revenue increase			
LOCAL SOURCES FUND	\$675,000	\$675,000	\$675,000

Source of revenue increase:

The local sources revenue increase is anticipated to come from participating counties reimbursement of the Office for program fees and administrative costs. The Department of Family Services (Department) anticipates the federal revenue increase is to come from reimbursement for eligible expenses for Title IV-E eligible children.

Assumptions:

The Office will receive 25% of program fees and administrative costs from participating counties. The Department anticipates a federal reimbursement of

50% for Title IV-E eligible children. The estimate presented in the table above is based on the following assumptions:

- The total program cost = \$5,400,000
- 25% from participating counties x \$5,400,000 = \$1,350,000 per biennium or \$675,000 per year

The Department does not know the amount that will be eligible for Title IV-E federal reimbursement, but provided the following estimate for modeling purposes:

- Estimated total billed for legal fees per biennium could be \$5,000,000.
- 50% of parents of guardians served by the program will have children already in State custody who are being cared for in a Title IV-E eligible setting.
- \$5,000,000 x 50% (Title IV-E eligible children) = \$2,500,000
- The current Wyoming Title IV-E penetration rate is approximately 25%.
- \$2,500,000 x 25% = \$625,000 x 50% federal reimbursement = \$312,500 per biennium, or \$156,250 per year

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
NON-ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT			
Anticipated Expenditure increase			
LOCAL SOURCES FUND	\$675,000	\$675,000	\$675,000

Source of expenditure increase:

Creation of the Office and provision of court-appointed legal representation for parents, guardians or custodians in certain child protection cases and actions.

Assumptions:

This bill creates the Office of Parent Counsel Account. Funds in the new account are continuously appropriated to the Office for expenditure for the sole purpose of the program. The Office will expend the funds for program administration and for the provision of court-appointed legal representation for parents, guardians or custodians in certain child protection cases and actions.