

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact is indeterminable due to an unknown number of cases.

The Department of Family services (Department) indicates that if this bill is enacted into law and courts do not require child support funds to be collected for youth in the care and custody of the Department, there would be a revenue decrease to the General Fund and a corresponding revenue decrease in federal matching funds. The Department utilizes the collection of child support funds to match federal Title IV-E Foster Care funds. Between fiscal years 2018 and 2020, the Department collected an average of \$1,210,153 in child support funds and a corresponding amount in federal Title IV-E Foster Care funds, for a total average of \$2,420,306. In fiscal years 2021 and 2022 the total average was lower, \$1,650,257, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the reduction in the ability to pay child support.

If there is a revenue decrease from child support funds, the Department would still be required to pay for and provide services to support youth and families throughout the lifecycle of a case with the Department. Examples of services include outpatient mental health assessments and treatment, group homes, residential care and foster care subsidies.

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