



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2204

PRINTERS NO. 3526

PRIME SPONSOR: Simmons

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 2204, Printer's Number 3526, amends the Early Intervention Services System Act to add homeless children to the list of at-risk children to be identified, assessed and tracked by the Department of Public Welfare (DPW). This legislation is effective immediately.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation adds children who are homeless as a population group of at-risk children for the purposes of identification, assessment and tracking of infants and toddlers by DPW. The current population groups that are automatically tracked are: children whose birth weight is less than 1,500 grams; children cared for in neonatal intensive care units of hospitals; children born to chemically dependent mothers and referred by a physician, health care provider or parent; children who are seriously abused or neglected, as substantiated and referred by the county children and youth agency; and children with confirmed dangerous levels of lead poisoning as set by the Department of Health.

The legislation defines homeless as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youth in any of the following: sharing the housing of another person due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason; living in a motel, hotel, trailer park or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodation; living in an emergency or transitional shelter; abandoned in a hospital; awaiting foster care placement; have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans; living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station; and migratory children living in one of the circumstances just listed.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Based on an estimated 1,000 homeless children phasing in to the DPW Early Intervention program during the year, there would be an increase of approximately \$640,000 in state funds and \$180,000 in federal Medical Assistance funds required in fiscal year 2014-15. These amounts cover the cost of the identification, assessment and tracking activities along with services for a subset of children anticipated to need early intervention services.

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**DATE:** June 2, 2014

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*