



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2133

PRINTERS NO. 3817

PRIME SPONSOR: Watson

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: House Bill 2133, Printer's Number 3817, creates the Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program. This legislation is effective in 180 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation creates the Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program in the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide information and guidance to individuals who are raising related minor children. A Kinship Caregiver is an individual who is at least 21 years of age who lives with and is responsible for the care of a child who is related within the fifth degree of consanguinity or affinity to the parent or step-parent of the child. A Kinship Caregiver Navigator is an individual who has been trained to understand the various state agency systems serving kinship caregivers and can assist in accessing federal, state and local services and supports available to kinship caregivers.

DHS is required to develop a proposal and enter into a contract with an entity to administer the program.

The contractor shall at a minimum:

- Create and maintain a website that provides information on support and services available to kinship caregivers, including federal and state programs; support groups for kinship caregivers and the children in their care; respite services for caregivers; financial aid; legal aid and resources; education and support services for children; and training for current and prospective kinship caregivers.
- Create and maintain a statewide toll-free phone number manned by trained Kinship Caregiver Navigators to provide support and guidance to kinship caregivers.
- Train individuals to serve as Kinship Caregiver Navigators.
- Educate the public on services and supports available to kinship caregivers, including developing and administering a statewide marketing campaign.

A trained Kinship Caregiver Navigator will:

- Assist kinship caregivers by answering their questions related to kinship caregiving and helping them navigate the website to access available supports and services;

- Mediate, when necessary, to establish relationships between kinship caregivers and relevant federal, state and local agency staff;
- Work with the local Area Agency on Aging and county Children and Youth Services agency to identify and provide outreach to kinship caregivers who are in need of additional services; and
- Refer kinship caregivers to the appropriate county agency contact.

FISCAL IMPACT: According to the Department of Human Services, enactment of this legislation would cost approximately \$1,196,000 in state funds (\$2,250,000 in total funds). However, the recently signed federal budget, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, includes a new \$20,000,000 set-aside in the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program to develop and enhance kinship navigator programs and these federal funds could potentially be used to offset the state share of costs related to creation of the Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: April 17, 2018

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