



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1866

PRINTERS NO. 3064

PRIME SPONSOR: Boback

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 1866, Printer's Number 3064, amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and Title 67 (Public Welfare) to provide for judicial determinations, services, and data collections relating to older foster youths and their transitions out of foster care. This legislation would be effective in 60 days.

**ANALYSIS:** HB 1866 amends the chapter pertaining to "family finding" in Title 67 to provide for services and communications to: reduce the use of "another planned permanent living arrangement" (APPLA); assist older foster youths in the transition out of foster care and into independent adulthood; and provide for data collection to further inform practices relating to transitioning youth.

A new section, relating to permanency plans, requires that the county agency develop a permanency plan at the time a child is taken into protective custody and provide continuous services in support of the plan. A child aged 14 or older must have the opportunity to participate in the development of the plan.

The bill adds another new section relating to transition plans and services, which requires the county agency to provide certain services for older children who are in protective custody when they reach certain ages. Prior to termination of court jurisdiction of a youth aged 18 or older, the county must provide the youth with his or her essential documents, and must keep a copy of the transition plan, including copies of documents, for at least five years.

HB 1866 also amends the Juvenile Act (Title 42) in matters to be determined at a permanency hearing to add the requirement that the court determine whether services are being provided as required under 67 Pa.C.S. § 3104.2 (relating to transition plan and services) and whether a suitable transition plan has been presented, if the child is 18 years of age or older.

Additionally, the age at which the court may approve an APPLA placement is raised from 16 to 18 years. The county agency must also identify two (rather than one) significant connections with supportive adults and identify the specific planned permanent living arrangement it is asking the court to approve.

Finally, the bill amends the definition of “family finding” to better reflect the numerous reasons it is required, requires that specific information relating to the county’s efforts in this regard be set forth in the child’s case plan, and requires the county agencies to retain and submit to DHS 22 data points relating to any youth aged 18 to 21 at the time the court relinquishes jurisdiction.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** According to the Department of Human Services there may be increased costs associated with implementing a collection process, reviewing, and verifying information has been received for youth transitioning out of foster care at the age of 18 or older, as well as a cost associated with analyzing data to determine permanency outcomes. Any increased costs can be accommodated within existing resources.

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**DATE:** May 23, 2022

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