



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2426

PRINTERS NO. 3507

PRIME SPONSOR: Hickernell

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 2426, Printer's Number 3507, moves the provisions of two freestanding acts relating to resource (or foster) families to a new chapter in Title 67. This legislation would be effective in 60 days.

**ANALYSIS:** HB 2426 reenacts the Resource Family Care Act and the Resource Family and Adoption Process Act as Chapter 73 in Title 67.

Section 7301 enumerates certain responsibilities of a county agency or contracted private foster care agency regarding communication and consultation with, as well as provision of information, services, and training to, a resource family.

Section 7302 prohibits retaliation or adverse action against a resource family for making any appropriate inquiry regarding decisions or practices affecting the child or for any appropriate communication pursuant to the Juvenile Act (Chapter 63 of Title 42).

Section 7303 provides that a placing agency must interview a resource family as a potential adoptive family when the resource parent has expressed interest in adopting a child who has lived with the resource family for at least six months and the child's permanency goal is adoption, or the child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the preceding 22 months. If more than one adoptive resource is available, the agency must document the reasons for its recommendation in the child's case record and make that information available to the resource family.

Section 7304 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to promulgate regulations as necessary to ensure compliance with the chapter.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** According to DHS, enactment of this legislation will require county agencies or their contractors to hire an additional 135 caseworkers and 27 supervisors at an annual cost of approximately \$17.8 million in state funds and \$4.5 million in county funds. However, these provisions have been in statute since 2005 and were estimated to have a one-time training cost of no more than \$150,000 at the time of enactment. Therefore, any increased cost following DHS regulations to ensure compliance should be minimal.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** October 24, 2022

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