

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1227

PRINTER NO. 1756

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 10, 2022

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Baker

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1227 amends the Human Services Code to provide services for dependent and delinquent juveniles consistent with those of the Juvenile Act.

The bill requires the Department of Human Services (department) to prioritize the following objectives when a court determines a child to be a dependent and issues an order of disposition that is best suited to the safety, protection and physical, mental and moral welfare of the child:

- Increase the use of nonplacement services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect and to strengthen families so that children’s safety is increased and risk is minimized;
- Use kinship care as the first priority if placement is necessary;
- Reduce the use of congregate-living and institutional placements; and
- Improve permanency for children to reduce the duration of out-of-home placement.

The bill directs courts, upon determining a child to be delinquent, to order a disposition that is consistent with protection of the public, imposition of accountability for offenses and development of competencies to enable the child to become a responsible and productive member of the community.

The bill requires the department to prioritize the following objectives when consistent with the protection of the public and the treatment, supervision and rehabilitation needs with respect to placement of delinquent children:

- Encourage use of the in-home services;
- Encourage the development of placement resources that provide for a reasonable duration of placement;
- Encourage use of community-based residential resources as alternatives to institutional placements; and
- Encourage development of services and programming to facilitate the successful transition of delinquent children to their communities from periods of residential placement.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Department of Human Services, enactment of Senate Bill 1227 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.