

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1229

PRINTER NO. 1838

AMOUNT

\$900,000

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 10, 2022

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Baker

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1229 amends the Human Services Code to add the cost of counsel to the list of costs for which the Department of Human Services is to reimburse counties in juvenile proceedings.

The bill requires the Department of Human Services (department) to reimburse counties for 50% of the court costs related to the appointment of counsel for a child in the context of dependency proceedings and to the appointment of counsel for an indigent child in the context of delinquency proceedings.

The bill stipulates that the department's Needs-Based Budget determination shall consider whether the county's budget prioritizes expenditures of the funds reimbursed to the county for required juvenile counsel in ways that are designed to maintain, enhance or improve the quantity or quality of legal services provided to juveniles.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Department of Human Services, enactment of Senate Bill 1229 will cost an estimated \$1.8 million annually in total funds (\$0.9 million in state funds). This estimate is based upon 8,756 juvenile delinquency legal proceedings involving public defenders in 2019. 28% of the cases were for felony charges (4-hour legal representation), and 72% were for misdemeanor or lessor charges (1-hour legal representation) at an average hourly rate for legal representation of \$112.50.