

LFC Requester: _____

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

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{Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Jan 18

Bill No: HB121

Sponsor: Armstrong, Reeb, Lord, Vincent,
Jones
Short Title: CYFD Plan of Care
Investigations

Agency Name and Code: CYFD / 690
Number: _____
Person Writing: Julie Sakura
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
-0-	-0-	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$5,600.0	\$5,600.0	\$11,200.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: This bill amends the Children’s Code to require the Children Youth and Families Department to conduct a family assessment for any family that does not comply with a plan of care. Following this assessment, CYFD will offer services to address the factors which are cause for concern for child and family. A refusal of services shall be considered reason to investigate the family for child abuse or neglect.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation contained within this bill. CYFD anticipates that fulfillment of this bill’s assessment and investigation mandates will require an additional 59 FTE (1 Statewide Central Intake [“SCI”] Supervisor; 5 SCI Intake Workers; 35 CARA Navigators; 3 Investigations Supervisors; 15 Investigations Workers) at an initial annual cost of \$5,600.0. CYFD cannot absorb this fiscal impact with existing resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill requires that the referring plan of care agency (hospitals, birthing centers) notify CYFD when a family fails to follow through with the plan of care. This notification is currently handled by the Managed Care Organization. Enacting this requirement of the bill will require amended processes and procedures and amended regulations.

Although the bill mandates that CYFD be notified, the bill is silent on consequences if this notification is not made.

Further, the bill states “child's parents, relatives, guardians or caretakers *may* choose to accept or decline any service or program offered subsequent to the family assessment,” and then declares that, “that if the child's parents, relatives, guardians or caretakers decline those services or programs, the department *shall* proceed with an investigation.” This will not only result in an increase in investigations, but it will result in increased investigations occurring where the refusal of just one service irrespective of the type of service. This is of particular concern for services that cannot be mandated, including the Family Infant Toddler Program.

CYFD is already working to establish a procedure by which a family receives the support it needs to ensure appropriate engagement with services without the threat of investigation mandated by this bill. The CARA program housed in CYFD’s Family Services Division will include a face-to-face component to support and engage with families who are not following their plan of care. In the event a family does not engage in services identified on the plan of care,

a CARA family support worker (navigator) will contact the family, complete a family assessment, and support the family's engagement. Hospitals will be trained to notify the CARA program when a family has indicated they do not intend to engage in services, or the MCO care coordinator will contact the CARA program if the family is not engaging in services. Importantly, this structure allows CYFD the discretion to investigate only when a refusal to engage with services is clearly child abuse or neglect, and not the consequence of the family's specific economic, cultural, or social conditions, concerns, or issues. Importantly, the CARA Navigator will also ensure that the infant is receiving necessary medical care at the appropriate intervals and will make a referral to Protective Services for medical neglect if the infant is not receiving medical care. Further, the CARA Navigator will make an abuse and/or neglect referral to Protective Services if, at any time during the engagement period (1 year), there is a concern that the infant is abused and/or neglected.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD has performance measures concerning the safety and well-being of children which are better addressed through the thoughtful implementation of the new CARA procedures.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The administrative implications of the expanded workload without concomitant resources cannot be absorbed by existing resources.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Duplicate SB083

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None proposed.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

None proposed.