

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(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: Modifies certain eligibility requirements for the Fostering Connections Program: removing the requirement of having been adjudicated as neglected or abused or in need of court-ordered services, requiring that the youth have turned 18 while still in the legal custody of the department, including under a voluntary placement agreement. (The bill would not change other eligibility criteria for those who had been the subject of a guardianship or adoption that had been terminated or was no longer a relationship that would provide emotional or financial support).

Removing the requirement of having been adjudicated as neglected or abused or in need of court-ordered services and making youth subject to voluntary placement agreements eligible could result in making more youth eligible for the Fostering Connections program. It is unclear if the requirement that the youth turn 18 while still in custody will have any discernible effect on the number of adults eligible for the program, though it could reduce eligibility for a small number of young adults.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

An increase in eligible adults would result in increased financial costs of the program.

An increase in eligible adults could result in increased Fostering Connections Petitions being filed, with a corresponding need for the appointment of additional counsel by the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy for the eligible adults. No appropriation for this potential increased cost has been included.

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If this Bill is not enacted, youth who are the subject of abuse or neglect or families in need of court-ordered services actions but who turn 18 before being adjudicated and youth who emancipate from department custody while the subject of voluntary placement agreements would continue to be ineligible for the Fostering Connections program.

AMENDMENTS