

LFC Requester: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**  
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)  
*(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}*

**Date Prepared:** \_\_\_\_\_ *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** SB231 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** N Tobiassen **Agency Name and Code** CYFD - 690  
**Short Title:** STUDY COMMUNITY-BASED FOSTER CARE **Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	200.0	Recurring	General

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>						

(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 appropriates \$200.0 from the state general fund to the office of child advocate, effective July 1, 2026, for the following purposes:

- Conduct a study every five fiscal years to review and evaluate the costs and reimbursement rates for providing community-based foster care placements and foster care treatment for children in foster care, including the costs of:
  - resources and associated daily workloads and activities related to volunteer community-based providers to address the safety and physical and emotional well-being of a child, parent, guardian or foster parent;
  - payments to reimburse resource families for the cost of food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, personal incidentals and reasonable travel expenses to meet the needs of a child in that resource family's care; and
  - any other applicable costs or reimbursements as identified by the office of child advocate.
  
- Conduct a study every six fiscal years to review and evaluate the costs and reimbursement rates for providing quality legal representation for children in CYFD custody as the result of abuse and neglect allegations. At a minimum, the study should include and identify:
  - hourly billed costs;
  - investigative costs;
  - psychological, behavioral, medical, trauma or developmental evaluation or assessment costs;
  - trial or appeals preparation costs; and
  - an estimate of all reimbursable costs and the respective applicable reimbursement rates.

These studies are to begin in FY2027, with the first studies provided to the legislative finance committee no later than December 1, 2026, with each study thereafter to be provided no later than December 1 of the calendar year of the study.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

This bill appropriates \$200.0 from the state general fund to the office of child advocate, effective July 1, 2026, for expenditure in FY2027, with any remaining amount reverting.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

CYFD performs regular foster care rates studies, most recently in 2021.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD has performance measures concerning the recruitment and retention of resource parents which might be positively affected by this bill, provided that, if the study finds that the costs and reimbursement rates are insufficient, the legislature follows timely to CYFD budget sufficiently to address that insufficiency.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Any administrative implications from assisting the office of child advocate with this study will be

absorbed by existing resources.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None identified.

**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.