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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-8-06

SPONSOR Taylor LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE 18-21 YEAR-OLD FOSTER CARE LIAISON SB 410

ANALYST Lucero

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates, Relates to HB315 “18-21 YEAR-OLD FOSTER CHILD HOUSING SERVICES” & SB53 “18-21 YEAR-OLD FOSTER CHILD MENTORING PROGRAM”.

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)  
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)  
 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)  
 Office of Workforce Training and Development (OWTD)  
 Labor Department (LD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

SB 410 directs the Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) to designate a half-time liaison for foster services to focus on social, housing, employment and educational needs for children ages 18 to 21 who have been in state foster care. Additionally, this bill requires CYFD to coordinate with other states agencies:

- 1) A CYFD liaison shall serve on the youth transition task force of CYFD,
- 2) Convene individualized transition planning meetings for foster care children ages eighteen to twenty-one who are still entitled to educational services, and their their foster parents, and issue invitations to such meetings to appropriate staff from other agencies including

the Public Education Department (PED), universities, local school districts, the Office of Workforce Training and Development (OWTD) or Labor Department and the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Public Education Department.

- 3) Make recommendations departments, agencies and the legislative welfare reform oversight committee on strategies to properly fund programs and provide guidance for children ages 18-21 that have been in foster care.

There is no appropriation in this bill.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The CYFD would be required to appoint a half-time FTE. There is no appropriation in the bill; therefore, CYFD would have to absorb the administrative cost.

There is minimal fiscal impact on the PED. The PED would have to designate an FTE to serve on the individualized transition planning meetings for foster care children. The number or location of meetings is not determined in the bill.

This bill has no fiscal or budgetary impact to the Judiciary.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to CYFD, this position already exists and is filled at this time. The Independent Living Manager's duties include managing foster services for 18 to 21 year olds in the areas of social, housing, employment and education. This position also makes recommendations to departments, agencies and the legislative welfare reform committee on strategies for funding and guiding 18 to 21-year-olds who have been in foster care. CYFD also has four regional Independent Living Coordinators who provide these services throughout the state.

As of January 2006, this age group (18-21 year olds) was added to the Adoption Review Team process and all individuals in this age group will be reviewed for transition every 60 days.

The PED is specifically named in the bill as be represented on the individualized transition planning meetings for foster care children ages 18-21 who are entitled to education services.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The CYFD would be required to appoint a half-time FTE. There is no appropriation in the bill; therefore, CYFD would have to absorb the administrative cost.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

18-21 YEAR-OLD FOSTER CHILD MENTORING PROGRAM

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The bill refers to “children” aged 18-21, but such persons have reached the age of adult majority. This is relevant because the point of the bill is that once turning 18, young adults formerly in the foster care system are no longer children or youth under state custody.

The Office of Workforce Training and Development would not be responsible for the delivery of services to transitioning youth, but may place the liaison in touch with the appropriate parties within each of the local Workforce Development Areas/Boards- but most importantly, be a participant in the One-Stop Centers.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Although the bill has no direct impact to the Judiciary, the AOC’s Court Improvement Project (CIP) has recognized the importance of the issue of youth aging out of the foster care system without having achieved permanent placement before reaching the age of majority who have little support provided and few services available to them. After reaching the age of 18, former foster children are no longer under court-supervised state custody, but the CIP is concerned that they often transition to adulthood and independence with few connections, no familial ties or support, little state assistance, and next to no means or resources of their own. The CIP has adopted work on this problem to be an initiative in its strategic plan, and, in general, supports efforts to improve the situation and assist youth who are transitioning from, and young adults who have aged-out of, the foster care system, including the development of strategies to properly fund programs and provide guidance for former foster children.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

**Status Quo**

DL/mt