

**EXECUTIVE AGENCY  
FISCAL NOTE**

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: March 25, 2021

Agency Submitting: Department of Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services

<b>Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2020-21</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2021-22</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2022-23</b>	<b>Effect on Future Biennia</b>
Total	0	0	0	0

Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

The fiscal impact to the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) cannot be determined because it is unclear how many more youth may be committed to the state-custody Juvenile Justice System rather than served by the criminal justice system. The potential impact to DCFS programs in this BDR include:

(1) Shifting cases from automatic certification to discretionary will require more staff time by the Youth Parole Bureau and Community Services Deputy Administrator. Given the factors required to be analyzed by the court, DCFS will likely be expected to review case files, prepare testimony, and present in court about the Division's ability to handle each case. It is estimated there are approximately 30 direct certification cases each year statewide.

(2) There could be an increase in the need for DCFS juvenile justice facility beds if the discretionary nature increases youth staying in Juvenile Justice System. Those not transferred to the adult system would more than likely be committed to DCFS for correctional care.

(3) The effects of this bill would lead to necessary changes in programming and placement decisions in order to best program for youth who have committed far more serious offenses than we currently program, and then Division would attempt to avoid mixing these sophisticated juveniles with our less sophisticated current population. This may be especially true as many of these currently automatically-certified youth already have experience with the juvenile justice system and its interventions.

Name Mandi Davis

Title Deputy Administrator

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF FINANCE COMMENTS**

The agency's response appears reasonable.

Date Friday, March 12, 2021

Name Bessie J. Wooldridge

Title Executive Branch Budget Officer