

HF3845 - 0 - Foster Youth Ombudsperson and Board

Chief Author: **Jessica Hanson**
 Committee: **State Government Finance and Policy**
 Date Completed: **3/23/2022 8:28:51 PM**
 Lead Agency: **Administration Dept**
 Other Agencies:
 Governors Office

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology	X	
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Administration Dept	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
Governors Office						
General Fund	-	-	775	726	726	
State Total						
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Fund	-	-	775	726	726	
Total	-	-	775	726	726	
Biennial Total			775			1,452

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Administration Dept	-	-	-	-	-
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	.5	.5	.5
Governors Office					
General Fund	-	-	4	4	4
Total	-	-	4.5	4.5	4.5

Lead LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Joel Enders **Date:** 3/23/2022 8:28:51 PM
Phone: 651-284-6542 **Email:** joel.enders@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2	Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Administration Dept	-	-	-	-	-
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Governors Office					
General Fund	-	-	775	726	726
Total	-	-	775	726	726
Biennial Total			775		1,452
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*					
Administration Dept	-	-	-	-	-
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	50	50	50
Governors Office					
General Fund	-	-	775	726	726
Total	-	-	825	776	776
Biennial Total			825		1,552
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*					
Administration Dept	-	-	-	-	-
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	50	50	50
Governors Office					
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	50	50	50
Biennial Total			50		100

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Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

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	Dollars in Thousands	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	.5	.5	.5
Total	-	-	.5	.5	.5

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Joel Enders **Date:** 3/23/2022 8:28:22 PM
Phone: 651-284-6542 **Email:** joel.enders@lbo.mn.gov

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Dollars in Thousands	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*					
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	50	50	50
Total	-	-	50	50	50
Biennial Total			50		100
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*					
Other Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	50	50	50
Total	-	-	50	50	50
Biennial Total			50		100

Bill Description

Creation of Foster Youth Ombudsperson and Board

Assumptions

Admin SmART Division will be utilized by the new Board for both financial and human resource services. SmART estimates costs based on the new Board having 4 FTE. If the agency is larger, these costs could increase. We are estimating the cost of SmART services to be \$50,000 based on agencies of a similar size served by SmART. This amount would be paid by the Office to SmART.

There currently is no language in this bill that mandates this Board to use SmART services

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

SmART services are provided by multiple employees at varying levels.

Our estimate is based on a mid-level accounting position. .50 FTE with benefits - \$50,000.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

Agency Contact: Tracey Sigstad (651) 201-2527

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Bruce Lemke

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Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology	X	
Local Fiscal Impact		X

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Biennial Total			775			1,452

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
General Fund	-	-	4	4	4
Total	-	-	4	4	4

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Christian Larson **Date:** 3/18/2022 2:13:45 PM
Phone: 651-284-6436 **Email:** christian.larson@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

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State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
General Fund	-	-	-	775	726	726
Total		-	-	775	726	726
Biennial Total					775	1,452
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund	-	-	-	775	726	726
Total		-	-	775	726	726
Biennial Total					775	1,452
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total					-	-

Bill Description

This bill establishes a new office of the foster youth ombudsperson to improve lives of youth in the foster care system. This bill provides authority for the office to establish a complaint system, investigate complaints as resources allow, obtain information from other administrative agencies, attend court hearings at the request of youth in the foster care system, and to subpoena organizations for relevant information to review complaints or assist youth in the foster care system.

This bill also establishes a new Board of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson to make recommendations and provide oversight to the ombudsperson office. The board is expected to have regular meetings with current and former youth in the foster care system and community advocates. This bill specifies the composition of the board and the board terms.

Assumptions

The new Office would be established and require a robust hiring process for a director to lead and establish the office, with a background sufficient to lead new engagement around foster care youth and challenges in the foster care system. The new Ombudsperson would then hire appropriate staff to support the responsibilities of the office as outlined in the bill. Initially, in FY23 the assumption is that the office would be staffed by a director, one support staff, and two program managers. It is expected that staffing could increase dependent on case load and investigation volumes as the work of the office develops overtime.

Due to the nature of this being a new office and needing necessary financial and human resource support, the office would use the Department of Admin SmART Division for this support. SmART estimates costs based on the new office having 4 FTE. If the agency is larger, these costs could increase. The assumption is that the initial cost of SmART services will be \$50,000 based on agencies of a similar size served by SmART. This amount would be paid by the Office to SmART.

The new Office is also required to establish a board and that board is expected to have regular meetings with current and former youth in the foster care system and community advocates. In addition to the staff, the office will need consultant support to carry out this work by using the established P/T contract system to procure annual board training, board management support and tracking, youth engagement and outreach specialists, onboarding resources specific to youth serving on a board.

The Office will also need in-state and out-state travel resources sufficient to fund staff and board member travel (including, but not limited to meals, per-diem participation stipends, mileage, room and board) to attend regular board meetings, to attend regular meetings with community advocates across the state which are anticipated on a weekly basis, and to engage regularly with similar foster youth ombudsperson offices across the United States a few times per year.

The Office would also be required to rent office space and rent public meeting space sufficient to support the board and allow for public participation on public board meetings.

The Office would also incur legal costs to support investigating complaints, issuing subpoenas, and/or responding to requests from youth in the foster care system or attending their legal hearings.

The Office would also need regular IT support for its regular operations and to support the connectivity of its board members and provide IT support at board meetings. In addition, the Office would need IT software and subscriptions to develop and establish a constituent tracking system and a complaint and investigation tracking system to ensure youth in foster care requests are tracked and monitored. The FY23 estimate reflects additional IT expenses necessary to procure and implement a new system while ongoing IT maintenance costs are reflected in FY24/25.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Staffing Costs:

Staff costs below reflect salary and fringe (fica, Medicare, insurance):

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Executive Director (SPA Mgr Principal)		167,587	167,587	167,587
Office Support Staff (OAS Principal)		87,857	87,857	87,857
Program Specialists (SPA Coordinator)		266,854	266,854	266,854
Total Staffing:		522, 298	522,298	522,298

Operations and Support Costs:

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Office and Meeting Space Rental and Furniture		30,500	14,016	14,016
IT Costs, IT system implementation and ongoing IT support		59,216	34,216	34,216
Travel Costs		20,000	20,000	20,000
Supplies and Equipment		17,900	10,000	10,000
SMART financial and HR support		50,000	50,000	50,000
P/T contracts for consultant support for board management, board training, youth engagement and outreach, legal support		75,000	75,000	75,000

Operations and Support Costs Total		252,616	203, 232	203, 232
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Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Additional costs may be incurred after the office is established and it is possible that IT costs, legal costs, and staffing costs could increase due to caseload or request volumes after establishment.

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

Agency Contact: Alyssa Haugen (952-495-3454)

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Alyssa Haugen

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