

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY FISCAL NOTE STATEMENT
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

MEASURE

2024 BR NUMBER 241

HOUSE BILL NUMBER 747

TITLE AN ACT relating to educational neglect.

SPONSOR Representative Jason Petrie

FISCAL SUMMARY

STATE FISCAL IMPACT: YES NO UNCERTAIN

OTHER FISCAL STATEMENT(S) THAT MAY APPLY: ACTUARIAL ANALYSIS
 LOCAL MANDATE CORRECTIONS IMPACT HEALTH BENEFIT MANDATE

APPROPRIATION UNIT(S) IMPACTED: Department for Community Based Services

FUND(S) IMPACTED: GENERAL ROAD FEDERAL RESTRICTED Various

FISCAL ESTIMATES	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	ANNUAL IMPACT AT FULL IMPLEMENTATION
REVENUES				
EXPENDITURES		Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
NET EFFECT		(Indeterminable)	(Indeterminable)	(Indeterminable)

() indicates a decrease/negative

PURPOSE OF MEASURE: The purpose of this measure is to amend the definition of an abused and neglected child to describe educational neglect and require that a parent or guardian surrender public assistance benefits received on behalf of a child when the child is placed outside the home by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) due to educational neglect.

FISCAL EXPLANATION: The provisions of this legislation could potentially impact the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) by an indeterminable amount due to the need for additional social service workers to support the anticipated increase in child protective service reports alleging educational neglect. DCBS states that to adequately handle an additional 1,000 abuse and neglect cases, they would need to hire an additional 34 social service workers at approximately \$108,000 each, which includes salary and fringe benefits. This cost would be approximately \$3.7 million annually utilizing blended fund sources.

According to DCBS, the Kentucky Department of Education's 2022-2023 Safe Schools Annual Statistical Report stated that 88,789 children (14.6% of students) had a behavioral event in that school year. It is the opinion of DCBS that educational neglect would include a child's violation of the school board's code of acceptable behavior if the board attributed it to a parent's failure to properly supervise or control his or her child. This is potentially 88,789 more cases that may meet the criteria for this legislation and would require investigations which would lead to an increase in hiring additional staff, as noted above.

Any savings to CHFS as a result of removing a parent or guardian from public assistance benefits would be offset by an increase in hiring additional social service workers to handle the increased caseloads. The additional cost impact could be substantial, yet indeterminable.

DATA SOURCE(S): Cabinet for Health and Family Services

PREPARER: Kevin Newton NOTE NUMBER: 112 REVIEW: JB DATE: 3/21/2024