

Revised based on amendments adopted through 5-19-15

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE**

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES</b> (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	<b>FY 2015-16</b>		<b>FY 2016-17</b>	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	902,143		908,488	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS	76,513		82,938	
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>978,656</b>		<b>991,426</b>	

**Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.**

This bill requires the establishment of a family finding service pilot in at least two service areas of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department will contract with one or more family finding services. A portion of all cases involving state wards who are in foster care or former wards participating in the Bridge to Independence Program shall be referred to the family finding contractors. The Department is required to establish a data collection system. An evaluation by an academic institution is required. The bill states intent to appropriate \$750,000 in General Funds in FY 16 and FY 17 and \$1.5 million in General Funds in FY 18 and FY 19 for the pilot project along with federal matching funds. The pilot terminates on June 30, 2019.

The bill states legislative intent to appropriate \$750,000 each year in FY 16 and FY 17. In each year of the next biennium, the amount increases to \$1.5 million in General Funds. This funding is for the cost of the family finding contracts, administrative costs and the evaluation. It is unknown if Title IV-E federal funding will be available. If federal funds are available up to an additional \$750,000 would be available.

The Department will have administrative costs for contract monitoring and oversight of the pilot and evaluation costs totaling \$152,201 in FY 16 and \$182,441 in FY 17. The amount available for the contracts is \$597,799 in FY 16 and \$567,559 in FY 17.

As amended this bill makes changes to the Bridge to Independent Program. It expands coverage of the Bridge to Independence Program to include youth who entered into a state-funded or kinship guardianship agreement at age 16. The youth may choose to participate in the Bridge Program in lieu of an extended guardianship subsidy. The bill also extends Medicaid coverage for a child under a subsidized guardianship or adoption agreement up to 21.

It is assumed 20 young adults would shift from the subsidized guardianship program to Bridge to Independence. The Bridge payment are higher than the subsidy under guardianships; \$442 a month compared to \$760. The annual increase would be \$76,320 General Funds. Two additional Child and Family Services Specialist would also be needed at a cost of \$131,904 (65,952 GF and FF).

Medicaid coverage would also be extended to those between 18 and 21 who are under a guardianship or adoption agreement when the young adult had attained sixteen years of age before the agreement became effective. There are approximately eight youth with guardianships and adoption assistance that would be eligible for Medicaid coverage in FY 16. In FY 17 there would approximately 13. The cost would be \$20,432 (\$9,871 GF and \$10,561 FF) \$33,202 (\$16,216 GF and \$16,986 FF) in FY 17.