



## Director's Office

One Capitol Hill | Providence, RI 02908 | (401) 222-2280

Jonathan Womer, Director

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairperson  
House Committee on Finance  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: HB5995 – AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT –  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

Dear Chairperson Abney,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 5995, which would provide a \$3,000 stipend to a qualified applicant who successfully completes job training programs at the Department of Human Services (DHS) and/or Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

The Division of Human Resources (HR) recognizes and appreciates the bill's intent to create a financial recruitment incentive to increase the applicant pool for specific DHS and DCYF positions. However, the bill language is vague and raises a number of questions and concerns related to funding, procedural complications, and equity.

The proposed legislation makes multiple references to "eligible applicants" receiving stipends following their completion of the job training program and probationary period, but one must be employed in an eligible position in order to receive the stipend. As such, "eligible employee" is a more accurate term.

Further, the job classifications listed, "Child Service Enforcement Agent" and "Social Case Worker I" are not valid job classes, rather there is a hierarchy within those positions (I, II, and III). The bill is not clear whether the intent is to incentive the entry-level positions or to incentivize state personnel to advance into the higher classifications.

The bill also fails to specify any details regarding the job training program it mandates newly hired eligible DHS and DCYF personnel to complete in order to receive the proposed stipend. HR is not clear on the required components of said training or who is responsible for administering this training. Further, in addition to being an unfunded mandate, any stipend payments to bargaining unit members must be negotiated with and agreed upon by the union, a process not acknowledged in the bill.



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The Department appreciates the opportunity to share our concerns with the Committee. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience. As always, I thank you for your partnership and consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Wilson

Executive Director, Division of Human Resources

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance  
The Honorable David Morales  
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk