



**State Fiscal Note for Bill  
 Number: 2023-H-5102**

**Date of State Budget Office Approval:** Tuesday, May 30, 2023

**Date Requested:**

**Date Due:**

**Impact on Expenditures**

FY 2023 N/A  
 FY 2024 \$0  
 FY 2025 \$0

**Impact on Revenues**

FY 2023 N/A  
 FY 2024 N/A  
 FY 2025 N/A

*Explanation by State Budget Office:*

This act would establish general caseload limits for workers at the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), including the following: twelve active investigations at a time and eight new investigations at a time; fourteen families receiving ongoing in-home services; twelve children in out-of-home care; and eight children in foster care. These limits are similar to the Council on Accreditation's standards.

*Comments on Sources of Funds:*

It is noted that "generally" is to be understood that there may be circumstances under which caseloads may exceed these limits, such as when the department is faced with temporary staff vacancies. However, the department shall make all efforts to meet the caseload numbers set forth in the subsection

It is assumed that approximately 75 percent of the costs associated with this proposal will come from General Revenues and 25 percent will come from Federal Funds. This assumption is based on the existing distribution of funding sources utilized to pay workers at DCYF who have caseloads likely to be impacted by this act.

*Summary of Facts and Assumptions:*

Although this act would establish caseload limits for DCYF workers similar to those contained in the Council on Accreditation (COA) standards, the legislation includes caseload limits that do not fully align with how DCYF will be assessed by COA. COA does not write standards to fit into a "one-size-fits-all" model, but rather addresses states' accreditation process on a case-by-case basis. As such, it is counterintuitive to the accreditation process to codify this standard as it is written and potentially open the state to liability outside a reasonable scope by assigning inappropriate caseload standards to the department.

That being said, it is assumed that this act's intent is to hold the department to the same standard as the Council on Accreditation (COA), regardless of whether the department has achieved accreditation. It is assumed that, were DCYF able to fill vacancies in all positions for which they have funding in the Governor's recommended budgets for FY 2023 and FY 2024, personnel would be within caseload limits set forth in this bill, based on the FTEs granted to the department in FY 2022 to pursue accreditation, though the number of cases in the state is constantly shifting. It is assumed that these positions will face the same retention and recruitment challenges the rest of the field has faced in recent years.

*Summary of Fiscal Impact:*

FY 2023: N/A  
 FY 2024: N/A

*Prepared by:*

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FY 2025: N/A

Note: Funding is already included in the Governor's Recommended Budgets for FY 2023 and FY 2024 for the personnel to achieve the standards laid out herein.

*Budget Office Signature:*



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*Fiscal Advisor Signature:*

