



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

State Budget Office

One Capitol Hill
 Providence, RI 02908-5890

Office: (401) 222-6300
 Fax: (401) 222-6410

State Fiscal Note for Bill Number:

2025-H 5396

Date of State Budget Office Approval: Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Date Requested: Friday, February 7, 2025

Date Due: Thursday, February 20, 2025

<i>Impact on Expenditures</i>		<i>Impact on Revenues</i>	
FY 2025	\$0	FY 2025	\$0
FY 2026	Indeterminate	FY 2026	\$0
FY 2027	Indeterminate	FY 2027	\$0

Explanation by State Budget Office:

This act would amend R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-72-5.3 to establish caseload limits for works at the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The act would establish general caseload limits for DCYF workers similar to those contained in the Council on Accreditation standards as well as require payment of employees based on salaries in other New England state annually. This act would take effect upon passage.

Summary of Facts and Assumptions:

The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families is mandated to achieve accreditation through the Council on Accreditation by state law R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-72-5.3. Rhode Island's FY 2022 Enacted Budget included \$8.8 million for the 75 FTEs the Department identified as necessary to become accredited, as well as \$600,000 for other costs including accreditation fees. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families achieved accreditation through the Council on Accreditation on February 14, 2025.

Council on Accreditation standards establish caseload limits for caseworkers, and generally do not exceed:

- 12 active investigations at a time, including no more than 8 new investigations per month
- A maximum of 15-17 families receiving ongoing in-home services
- 12-15 children in out-of-home care, and their families
- 8 children in treatment foster care, and their families
- 12-25 families when arranging adoptions or guardianships

The caseload limits in the proposed bill include limits of:

- 12 active investigations including no more than 8 new investigations per month
- A maximum of 14 families receiving ongoing in-home services
- 12 children in out-of-home care, and their families
- 8 children in treatment foster care and their families



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As a result of the overlapping caseload limits set out by the proposed bill and the Council on Accreditation standards, there would be no extra cost associated with implementing these provisions. DCYF already meets these caseload limits, as demonstrated by the accreditation awarded to the Department in February 2025.

The proposed bill also outlines a requirement for DCYF to conduct an annual pay rate review for current employees. The analysis will compare the salaries for New England states' employees in similar positions and shall compensate current employees based on the data collected. Similar rate reviews carried out by consultant services have cost between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000 for Rhode Island Health and Human Services agencies. This cost will recur every year that the rate review is carried out at DCYF. Due to the timing of the bill, no fiscal impact would be realized until FY 2026.

For each year that the provisions of this bill are implemented the cost to the state will include the cost of the rate review (between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000), in addition to the difference between current employee wages and the rates established by the rate review. The split between state funds and federal funds for this increase would likely be 75.7% general revenues and 24.3% federal funds in accordance with the FY 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget for the personnel and potentially a lower match for the rate review cost.

The general revenue and federal fund increase that may result from the rate review cannot be determined until the rate review is complete. Changes in employee salaries could range from thousands to millions of dollars. For this reason, the implementation of the proposed bill is indeterminate.

Comments on Sources of Funds:

Caseworkers at the Department of Children, Youth, and Families are paid with a combination of general revenues and federal funds. In the FY 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget, the \$106.1 million allocated for salary and benefits is split between 75.7% general revenues and 24.3% federal funds.

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

FY 2025: \$0

FY 2026: Indeterminate

FY 2027: Indeterminate

Budget Office Signature: _____

Digitally signed by Joseph
Codega Jr.
Date: 2025.03.19 15:57:01 -0400

Fiscal Advisor Signature: _____