

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1307
Appropriations

(Delegate Wilson, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Children in Out-of-Home Placement - Annual Notice of Benefits

The bill requires the Social Services Administration within the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to provide a child in an out-of-home placement who is at least age 13 information regarding benefits available to the child on leaving out-of-home care. The information must be provided at least one time each year, and may be provided at a permanency planning hearing or review hearing, or by certified mail. The information must include information regarding tuition assistance, health care benefits, and job training and internship opportunities. By December 31, 2014, the Secretary of Human Resources must report to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Appropriations Committee on how DHR has implemented the bill's provisions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DHR can handle the bill's requirements using existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Out-of-home placement means the placement of a child into foster care, kinship care, group care, or residential treatment care. There is no statutory requirement for a child leaving an out-of-home placement to be provided information regarding available benefits. However, numerous benefits are available to these youth. For example, individuals are eligible for a tuition and mandatory fee exemption to attend a public institution of higher education in Maryland if they resided in an out-of-home

placement when they graduated from high school or successfully completed a general equivalency development examination. Individuals adopted or placed into guardianship from an out-of-home placement after their thirteenth birthday are also eligible for the exemption. Former foster care adolescents are also eligible for Medicaid up to age 26.

Chapter 317 of 2013 also required the Department of Budget and Management to develop and implement a Foster Youth Summer Internship Pilot Program. The program's purpose is to provide foster youth with training and experience through internships in agencies within the Executive Branch of State government. "Foster youth" means an individual who (1) is in out-of-home care under the responsibility of the State or (2) is an adult younger than age 26 and was in out-of-home care under the responsibility of the State on the individual's eighteenth birthday.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2014
mc/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 18, 2014
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