

HB 1598-FN-A - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

11Apr2024... 1308h

2024 SESSION

24-2311

05/10

HOUSE BILL

1598-FN-A

AN ACT relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments and veterans benefits for children in foster care.

SPONSORS: Rep. Wallner, Merr. 19; Rep. DeSimone, Rock. 18; Rep. Mooney, Hills. 12; Rep. Long, Hills. 23; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13

COMMITTEE: Children and Family Law

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of health and human services to prepare a report for the legislature and governor regarding budget requirements associated with management of social security and veterans benefits for children in placement through the department. The bill makes an appropriation to the department to hire a consultant to assist with the report and its implementation.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four

AN ACT relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments and veterans benefits for children in foster care.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Reporting; Management of Social Security and Veteran's Benefits for Children in Placement
2 Through the Department of Health and Human Services; Appropriation.

3 I. The department of health and human services shall provide a report relative to
4 management of social security and veterans' benefits for children in placement to the speaker of the
5 house of representatives, the president of the senate, the chairpersons of the house children and
6 family law committee, the house finance committee, the senate judiciary committee, the senate
7 finance committee, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library. This report
8 shall contain a budget proposal for the biennium ending June 30, 2027 for the purposes of
9 implementing and managing social security payments and veteran's benefits for children in
10 placement through the department of health and human services, and shall be submitted on or
11 before December 31, 2024. To assist in the preparation of this report, and to assist the department
12 with implementation of the report's recommendations, including the budget proposal for the
13 biennium ending June 30, 2027, the department shall hire a consultant with knowledge of other
14 states' efforts to manage such payments and benefits for children in placement.

15 II. There is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services the sum of
16 \$150,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, for the purpose of hiring the consultant required by
17 paragraph I. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the
18 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

19 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

HB 1598-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments and veterans benefits for children in foster care.

FISCAL IMPACT: ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐ None

Estimated State Impact - Increase / (Decrease)				
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures	\$0	\$1,433,000	\$2,870,000	\$2,899,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations	\$0	\$1	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			

- Does this bill provide sufficient funding to cover estimated expenditures? ☒ No
- Does this bill authorize new positions to implement this bill? ☒ No

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that social security payments and veterans benefits for children in the care of the Department are held securely until the child is no longer in the care of the Department. The Department states that the bill adds additional duties and responsibilities to its mandate, in that it will require a review of Social Security and Veterans Administration benefits eligibility for all children over whom the Department has custody or guardianship, as well as all children in a court-ordered or other placement. The Department states that this will require an annual accounting of benefits provided to certain individuals, among other responsibilities. The Department expects that six new positions will be needed, including two Supervisor IVs, two Program Specialist IIIs, one attorney, and one paralegal, at a total cost of \$761,000 in FY25, \$766,000 in FY26, and \$795,000 in FY27.

In addition to the impacts above, the Department states that, by finding additional children eligible for Supplemental Security Income, the bill will result in a loss of Title IV-E federal revenue collected by the State. The Department estimates this loss in federal revenue at \$704,000 per year. Finally, the Department assumes the bill will result in a further annual loss of \$1,400,000 in federal SSI revenue paid directly to the State. The Department assumes state

general funds will be needed to make up for the lost federal revenue, resulting in an increased general fund expenditure of approximately \$2,104,000 per year.

This bill has an effective date of January 1, 2025. It is therefore assumed that the first year's costs will be 50 percent of the full-year cost of implementation. The bill contains an appropriation of \$1 in FY25.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Health and Human Services