

Fiscal Note

BILL # SB 1490

TITLE: kinship foster care stipend; increase

SPONSOR: Alston

STATUS: As Introduced

PREPARED BY: Maggie Rocker

Description

The bill would increase the monthly kinship care stipend from \$300 to \$600 via \$100 increments on a calendar year basis beginning in CY 2026.

Estimated Impact

We estimate the \$300 stipend increase would generate a cost of \$2.2 million in FY 2026, \$6.5 million in FY 2027, and \$10.8 million in FY 2028, with the full phase-in amount of \$12.9 million realized in FY 2029. These estimates were derived by multiplying average monthly caseloads by the relevant stipend amounts.

The bill may also have secondary impacts of an unknown magnitude on DCS out-of-home placement costs. It would make kinship reimbursement comparable to some licensed foster home placements, which may reduce the number of kinship caregivers pursuing licensure and associated federal funding. The bill may also reduce the number of other placements with other providers, such as group homes, if higher stipends increase the number of available kinship caregivers.

Analysis

Kinship settings are out-of-home placements in which care is provided by a relative or adult who has a significant relationship with the foster child. Participants in the kinship stipend program receive an average of \$300 per child per month. According to the latest data available from the agency, the kinship program currently provides monthly stipends for 3,592 youth.

Local Government Impact

None

3/13/25

