

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 2338

**PRINTER'S NO.** 3593

**AMOUNT**  
Minimal Fiscal Impact

**FUND**  
General

**DATE INTRODUCED**  
March 17, 2010

**PRIME SPONSOR**  
Representative Mundy

## **HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to CHILDREN AND YOUTH, March 17, 2010

Reported as amended, April 21, 2010

First consideration, April 21, 2010

Laid on the table, April 21, 2010

Removed from table, April 26, 2010

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, April 26, 2010

Re-reported as committed, May 3, 2010

Second consideration, May 3, 2010

Third consideration and final passage, May 4, 2010 (192-0)

In the Senate

Referred to AGING AND YOUTH, June 1, 2010

Reported as committed, Sept. 22, 2010

First consideration, Sept. 22, 2010

Second consideration, Sept. 27, 2010

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Sept. 27, 2010

Re-reported as committed, Sept. 28, 2010

## **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 2338 creates the Children in Foster Care Act. The bill provides all children in foster care with certain treatment and basic protections as identified in the act.

The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) is to develop a model grievance policy and procedure for use by county and private agencies. The model grievance policy and procedure shall be made available to all county and private agencies for their use within 30 days of the effective date of the act. Each county or private agency shall adopt the model grievance policy and procedure, or revise its current grievance policy and procedure to include the treatment and basic protection provisions included in the act no later than 45 days after the effective date of the act.

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In addition, a public or private agency handling the child's case must provide the foster child with an explanation of the procedures and policies relating to grievances and the requirements for children in foster care as well as provide a copy of the grievance policy and procedure and requirements to the child.

Violations under the act cannot be addressed by private cause of action.

Act is effective in 120 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Department of Public Welfare does not anticipate any significant cost to the Commonwealth as a result of HB 2338. The department would include training on the requirements of the legislation as part of its training curriculum.

Minimal costs may be incurred at the local level as agencies would need to allot time for staff training. DPW also notes the possibility that more local agency staff time may need to be devoted to processing grievances submitted by youth as they become more aware of their expanded rights.