

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6348

BILL NUMBER: SB 125

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 21, 2013

BILL AMENDED: Feb 21, 2013

SUBJECT: Commission on Improving the Status of Children.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Holdman

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill establishes the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana to: (1) study issues concerning vulnerable youth; (2) review legislation; (3) cooperate with other entities; and (4) take other actions relating to children. The bill establishes the Subcommittee on Child Services Oversight to: (1) review data reports from the Department of Child Services (DCS); (2) review annual reports from the DCS ombudsman; (3) make recommendations to the Commission to improve the delivery of child protection services; and (4) submit an annual report to the Commission. The bill also repeals the law establishing the Department of Child Services Interim Study Committee.

(The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Department of Child Services Interim Study Committee.)

Effective Date: July 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill will increase state expenditures to provide per diem, travel allowance, and other expenses of the new 17-member Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana. The bill also repeals the existing Department of Child Services (DCS) Interim Study Committee, which otherwise would not have expired until December 31, 2013. Consequently, meeting expenditures for FY 2014 are likely to be offsetting to some extent. This Commission is likely to fall under Legislative Council policies regarding study committees, so based on Legislative Council resolutions in the past, state expenditures could increase by up to \$16,500 per year beginning in FY 2015. Funding will likely come from the appropriations for the Legislative Council and Legislative Services Agency. The Indiana Judicial Center is to provide staffing for the Commission.

The DCS Interim Study Committee, repealed by the bill, is staffed and funded by the Legislative Services Agency. Committee expenditures totaled \$15,700 during the 2012 interim.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Legislative Services Agency; Indiana Judicial Center; DOE; FSSA; DOC; OMB; DCS; Division of State Court Administration; ISDH.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.