Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: SB 1406 **Patron:** Salim
Bill Title: Children's Ombudsman, Office of the; foster youths right to receive information

Bill Summary: The proposed legislation requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) or a local department of social services (LDSS), a children's residential facility, or any child-placing agency to provide certain information along with the contact information for the Office of the Children's Ombudsman to a biological parent, prospective adoptive parent, or foster parent, as well as to any child in foster care age 12 or older upon the opening of a foster care case for such child. The bill also provides that, in relation to complaints made to the Ombudsman, if such child is the complainant, the Ombudsman need not gain the consent of the Department or local department of social services, the children's residential facility, the child-placing agency, or the foster parent or guardian of the child or other person having custody or care of the child to receive information from or communicate with the child.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** None

Fiscal Summary: The bill is expected to have minimal fiscal impact on impacted agencies.

Fiscal Analysis: DSS does not anticipate any fiscal impact from passage of this legislation as the local departments of social services are already required to provide information about the OCO to biological parents, prospective adoptive parents, and foster parents. Further, providing the required notification to the youth who are aged 12 and older annually about the OCO, as stated in this legislation, can happen during the normal course of ongoing contact with the youth and will not require additional time or resources. The authority for the OCO to interview and obtain information from youth without consent does not create an additional workload and would not result in a fiscal impact.

Other: This bill is a companion to HB 1777.