

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB 1631

Patron: Keys-Gamarra

Bill Title: Department of Social Services; foster care; new luggage; report

Bill Summary: The proposed legislation directs the Department of Social Services (DSS) to establish and maintain a decentralized supply of new luggage to be used to transport the personal belongings of a child in foster care. The bill requires DSS to provide new luggage to a child who is entering or exiting foster care or moving from one foster care placement to another and prohibits the Department from using disposable bags or trash bags to transport any items for a child in foster care. The bill also requires DSS to report certain information related to new luggage to the General Assembly by no later than December 1 of each year.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 329

Fiscal Summary: The proposed legislation will require expenditures for which the agency is not currently appropriated. See table and fiscal analysis below.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
DSS (765)	-	\$730,209	\$397,953	\$397,953	\$397,953	\$397,953

Fiscal Analysis: Based on the provisions of this bill, it is assumed that DSS need to provide all 120 local departments of social services with a supply of new luggage for the transportation of personal belongings of youth in foster care. Any youth who is entering or exiting foster care or moving between placements and who is not in possession of previously provided luggage would be eligible to receive new luggage. DSS must also consider the child's age, mobility, personal belongings to be transported, and preferences when purchasing new luggage.

As of December 1, 2024, there were a total of 5,405 youth in foster care throughout the state (including young adults 18+ in the Fostering Futures program). In calendar year 2024, there were approximately 4,675 movements between foster care placements (unduplicated) and 2,239 children exiting care. Approximately 2,400 children enter foster care annually. It is assumed that all children entering and exiting care, along with 50 percent of placement changes would require new luggage (a total of 6,977 children) in the first year of implementation. Assuming most children retain previously provided luggage, it is assumed that all children entering foster care, no children existing foster care, and 25 percent of placement changes (a total of 3,569 children) would require luggage in subsequent years. The amount of luggage needed for each child will vary. It is likely that younger children will need less luggage. For the purposes of this statement, it is assumed that 30 percent of children will require two bags. Based on the assumptions above, it is estimated that DSS would have to purchase 9,069 pieces of luggage in FY 2026 and 4,639 pieces in subsequent years. Using online research, DSS maintains that luggage costs can vary between \$30 (duffle bags and backpacks) and \$125 (full-size suitcase with mobility enhancements) depending on the size and nature of each piece. This statement assumes an average price per piece of \$75. The estimated initial cost providing new luggage as required in the bill is estimated to be \$680,209 in FY 2026 and \$347,953 in subsequent years. The legislation allows for the

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solicitation and acceptance of gifts, grants, and donations for this program. Should any new luggage be donated then some program costs may be offset.

DSS maintains that the agency would require approximately \$50,000 general fund each year to administer the program. Funding is needed to handle purchasing, distribution, monitoring, and auditing of the luggage program. In addition, this funding would be used to prepare the annual reports as provided for in the bill.

Other: None