

**Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB283

Patron: Gardner

Bill Title: Child abuse or neglect; prenatal use of a controlled substance or drug as prescribed.

Bill Summary: Clarifies that a pregnant woman's prenatal use of a controlled substance or drug as prescribed by such woman's health care provider shall not solely be a reason to suspect that a child is abused or neglected.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: n/a

Explanation: No fiscal impact is expected.

Fiscal Summary: There is no anticipated impact to state resources resulting from this bill.

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Social Services reports that this legislation codifies the existing practice for local departments of social services seeking to determine the validity of child abuse or neglect reports alleging a substance-exposed infant; accordingly, it is not expected that this legislation will result in any new fiscal impacts.

Other: SB36 may be a companion to this bill.