

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB76

Patron: Keys-Gamarra

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

Bill Summary: Directs the Department of Social Services 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 the Department 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 requires the Commissioner of Social Services 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: Item 333

Explanation: The Department of Social Services will require additional general fund appropriation to comply with the requirements of this legislation, attributable to Item 333 (Child Welfare Services).

Fiscal Summary: The proposed legislation will require general fund expenditures on the part of the Department of Social Services (DSS) for which they are not currently appropriated. See table and fiscal analysis below.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
DSS (765)	-	\$997,800	\$543,300	\$543,300	\$543,300	\$543,300
TOTAL	-	\$997,800	\$543,300	\$543,300	\$543,300	\$543,300

Fiscal Analysis: The provisions of this bill require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide new luggage to a child who is entering or exiting foster care, as well as children who are moving from one foster care placement to another. Any child who is entering or exiting foster care or moving between placements and who is not already in possession of previously provided luggage would be eligible to receive new luggage.

DSS reports that as of December 1, 2025, there were a total of 5,744 youths in foster care throughout the state (including young adults 18+ in the Fostering Futures program). In calendar year 2025, there were approximately 4,786 movements between foster care placements (unduplicated) and approximately 2,239 children exiting care while 2,659 children enter foster care annually. For the purposes of this fiscal analysis, it is assumed that all children entering and exiting care, as well as 50% of children undergoing a placement change, will require new luggage in the first year of implementation, for a total of 7,291 children in FY 2027. In future years, it is assumed that only children entering foster care and 25% of children undergoing a placement change will require new luggage as the likelihood of retaining previously provided luggage will increase,

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resulting in luggage needs for approximately 3,856 children in FY 2028 and thereafter. Based on the age of the child and number of personal belongings to be transported, luggage needs may vary; this fiscal analysis assumes that approximately 30% of children will require two bags. In summary, DSS anticipates that they will need to provide approximately 9,478 pieces of luggage in FY 2027 and 5,013 pieces of luggage in FY 2028 and subsequent years.

Luggage types and needs may vary depending on a child's age and mobility; based on online research, a backpack or small duffel bag can cost around \$30, while a large wheeled suitcase may cost \$150 or more. For the purposes of this analysis, the average price for a piece of luggage that can fully contain a child's personal belongings is assumed to be \$100. Based on the number of children and the estimated luggage price, DSS estimates that they will need a total of \$947,800 general fund (GF) to purchase the necessary luggage in FY 2027 and \$501,300 GF to purchase luggage in FY 2028 and subsequent years. The legislation provides that DSS may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations as it relates to collecting and providing luggage. Such gifts or grants may temporarily offset program costs related to buying new luggage.

In addition to collecting and providing luggage, DSS is also required to develop procedures for the storage and distribution of such luggage. Such procedures must include supply inventory and inventory management capabilities that can be included in an annual report to the General Assembly. DSS anticipates that approximately \$8,000 GF will be needed in the first year to install tracking and inventory capabilities in existing systems and \$42,000 GF will be needed each year for a part-time contractor whose work will focus primarily on inventory management. The contractor would be responsible for procuring and purchasing luggage, coordinating distribution and storage of luggage at local departments of social services, and tracking distribution and inventory as luggage is provided to children. The cost for this position assumes an hourly rate of \$28 for approximately 1,500 hours worked each year.

Any cost or workload impacts associated with developing an annual report to the General Assembly are expected to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Other: n/a