

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB879 ER

Patron: Shin

Bill Title: Public assistance; requests for records or information concerning applicants for and recipients.

Bill Summary: Requires the Commissioner of Social Services to make a public notice available on the Department of Social Services' website within 10 days of receiving a request for a record or information concerning 25 or more applicants for or recipients of public assistance or child support for a purpose not directly connected to the administration of such programs, should the Commissioner determine that he must share the information pursuant to state or federal law. The bill requires local departments of social services receiving similar requests to forward such request to the Commissioner to evaluate whether compliance is necessary and issue a public notice as appropriate. The bill establishes the form of such public notice and requires such notice to be made available (i) regardless of whether such information has been previously been shared; (ii) regardless of the identity of the requestor, unless such request is permitted in direct connection to program administration under existing law; and (iii) even when a request is made in compliance with state and federal law and regulation.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: n/a

Fiscal Summary: Minimal/absorbable fiscal impact.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make a public notice available on the DSS website upon receiving a request for a record or information concerning the populations outlined in the bill. Local departments of social services (LDSS) are required to forward any requests received concerning such information to DSS to evaluate compliance and post a public notice as may be necessary. The public notice posted by DSS is required to include specific information, including the date the request was received, the intent to comply with such request and, if applicable, the date by which such request shall be fulfilled.

DSS reports that recipients of benefits through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and child support cases all theoretically meet the criteria of a population for which a record may be requested. DSS reports that the DSS website is already capable of displaying uploaded public notice documents and that the requirements of this bill will not require additional system modifications. While it is unknown how many requests for records or information may be submitted to LDSS and DSS as a result of this bill, it is expected that any cost or workload impacts associated with processing records requests and uploading the public notice documents within the required timeframe will be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Other: n/a