



Please SUPPORT HB17-1052
Child Welfare Allocation Formula Factors
Sponsor: Rep. Beckman

In order to provide more flexible and agile consideration of factors for the child welfare allocation formula, HB17-1052 removes two specific factors that must be considered when developing the formula. The bill, however, retains an existing statute that requires consideration of a broad scope of factors that directly affect the population of children in need of child welfare services when developing an allocation formula.

Problem:

By requiring the consideration of specific formula factors, current statute makes the formula development process inefficient and unable to adjust to changes that directly affect children in need.

Solution:

HB 1052 allows for open discussions to occur around any and all potential formula factors. This flexibility will allow the annually adopted formula to adapt to factors that best predict the funding needs across the state.

Background:

- CRS 26-5-104 (3)(a)(IV) – and also lines 17-19 on page 2 of HB17-1052 – charges the state department of human services (CDHS) and the child welfare allocations committee (CWAC) to annually develop a formula using factors that directly affect the population of children in need of child welfare services.
- The two remaining factors that will be removed by HB 1052 are 1) the county’s allocations and expenditures for child welfare services in the three previous fiscal years and 2) the county’s prior fiscal year expenditures on preventive family preservation services and the number of families served. Removal of this requirements DOES NOT prevent CDHS and CWAC from continuing to utilize these factors if appropriate.
- The current child welfare formula for July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 consists of the following variables. These variables are not itemized in statute. There is also a small portion of ‘incentive funding’ that rewards absence of recurrence, permanency and timeliness of assessment closures.
 - a.) child population;
 - b.) children in poverty;
 - c.) average program services expended;
 - d.) average days in paid foster care;
 - e.) average days paid in congregate care;
 - f.) average days paid in subsidized adoptions; and
 - g.) average number of new adoptions

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