



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 31**

January Session, 2021

Senate Bill No. 35

*Senate, March 9, 2021*

The Committee on Children reported through SEN. ANWAR of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS ADOPTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' FOSTER CARE PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2021, the  
2 Commissioner of Children and Families shall amend the Department of  
3 Children and Families policy 25-2, effective January 2, 2019, concerning  
4 financial assistance for post-secondary education expenses, by  
5 expanding the eligibility criteria to receive assistance under said policy  
6 to include any individual adopted through the department's foster care  
7 program on or after January 1, 2001, provided (1) such individual meets  
8 all other eligibility requirements of said policy, and (2) any assistance  
9 received by such individual shall not exceed such individual's  
10 demonstrated financial need, as determined by the Federal Student Aid  
11 Office of the United States Department of Education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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**KID**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	2,214,178	898,376

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill expands the eligibility criteria for the Department of Children and Families' (DCF's) post-secondary education assistance program by including individuals, 18 years of age through 21 years of age, adopted through the agency's foster care program on or after 1/1/01 (instead of on or after 12/31/04, pursuant to existing agency policy). The population of individuals adopted between 1/1/01 and 12/31/04 is 221. If half of this population enrolls in the DCF program,<sup>1</sup> at an average cost per student of \$18,149 per fiscal year, the total cost to the agency will be approximately \$2,214,178 in FY 22 and \$898,376 in FY 23.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would terminate with the aging-out, by FY 26, of the population made newly eligible to participate in DCF's post-secondary education assistance program under the bill. It is anticipated that the cost to DCF in FY 24 will be approximately \$235,937 and the cost in FY 25 will be

<sup>1</sup>In FY 20, of the 634 individuals eligible to participate in the DCF post-secondary education program, 298 individuals (47%) did.

approximately \$18,149.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**SB 35**

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**SUMMARY**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (02/25/2021)