

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 6302
BILL NUMBER: HB 1036

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 17, 2026
BILL AMENDED: Feb 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Children in Need of Services.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Garcia Wilburn
FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Rogers

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: No Fiscal Impact

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Child Services (DCS) to have in-person contact with an alleged victim of child abuse or neglect: (1) before concluding an assessment; and (2) before dismissing or terminating a pending child in need of services case with the juvenile court.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: In the most recent Child Welfare Policy manual publication, the DCS adheres to the following timelines for *in-person* assessments after a local office receives notification of suspected child abuse or neglect:

- (1) Two hours if the allegations would cause a reasonable person to believe the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily harm;
- (2) Twenty-four hours if the allegations involve abuse but the conditions in item (1) do not apply; or
- (3) Five days if the allegations involve neglect and none of the conditions in items (1) or (2).

It is assumed the DCS's current policy on in-person assessments in these situations would satisfy what is included in the bill.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DCS.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: <https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/4.04.pdf>; <https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/4.38.pdf>;

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