

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

LS 7076

BILL NUMBER: HB 1357

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 20, 2026

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Child Services Provider Background Checks.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Rowray

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: The bill requires an employee of: (1) a preventative provider that operates a child welfare program; (2) a provider of home based family preservation services; (3) a child caring institution; (4) a group home; or (5) a child placing agency; to undergo a background check once every four years.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill would increase DCS workload to ensure that child welfare providers are performing criminal background checks of employees every four years after employment begins. Increases in workload are within the routine administrative function of the agency and would be accomplished during periodic reviews of child welfare providers.

The bill could also increase the workload of the Indiana State Police to process additional criminal history background check applications. Increases in workload would be offset with the state portion background check application fees.

Additional Information - DCS policy requires a national criminal history background check for all agency employees as well as anyone who resides or has direct contact with a child under the supervision of the Department. There is no policy concerning running periodic background checks for child welfare provider employees after hiring.

The bill would require criminal background checks for child welfare provider employees every four years after employment begins. The bill is silent as to who bears responsibility for the background check costs, but it is assumed the child welfare provider will finance the requests.

An information request with the DCS concerning how many child welfare provider employees could be impacted by the bill. These individuals would be subject to the \$38.20 fee that is collected for a national criminal history background check, which includes the federal fee (\$11.25), the state fee (\$15), and fingerprint fee (\$11.95).

Explanation of State Revenues: Requiring criminal history background checks for existing child welfare provider employees could increase state revenue received from criminal history background checks fees. Any increase would depend on child welfare provider staff turnover as well as provider policies concerning criminal history background checks on employees.

An information request is pending with the DCS and the information in this fiscal note will be updated once this information is provided.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DCS.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Madeleine O'Rourke, DCS;
<https://www.in.gov/dcs/providers-and-partners/background-checks/>
<https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/HR-2-2-Background-Checks.pdf>
<https://www.in.gov/isp/criminal-history-services/get-more-information/fees/>

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