

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

LS 6404
BILL NUMBER: SB 171

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 12, 2026
BILL AMENDED: Jan 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Family and Children Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Johnson T
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill provides that a court may grant postadoption contact privileges if the child is at least 12 months of age. (Current law requires the child to be at least two years of age.)

The bill requires the Department of Child Services (DCS) to consider certain factors when evaluating an out-of-home placement for a child in a child in need of services (CHINS) case. It provides that a relative who a child has resided with for at least 12 months is presumed to be an individual who has a significant relationship with the child.

The bill requires a court to write formal opinions in certain circumstances and include specific information in its opinions. It provides that the DCS may not request a change of placement in certain circumstances.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill also provides additional considerations for DCS family case managers when making a determination for out-of-home placements. These considerations are not expected to impact DCS workload or expenditures.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill would increase court workload to include specific information in opinions. Increases in workload are expected to be accomplished within existing resource and funding levels.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DCS.

Local Agencies Affected: Courts.

Information Sources:

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