

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

**LS 6853**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 201

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 29, 2025

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Protecting Children from Family Violence.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Tomes

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill amends the definition of "domestic or family violence" to include additional acts or behaviors that are not necessarily physical. It prohibits a court from returning certain children to the child's parent, guardian, or custodian unless appropriate safety conditions are ordered.

The bill requires the Office of Judicial Administration to develop a training program, which must include certain topics relating to domestic or family violence.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2026.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Summary* - The bill could increase the workload of the Office of Judicial Administration to develop the training program required in the bill. Increases in workload are expected to be accomplished within existing resource and funding levels.

The bill could also increase DCS expenditures for CHINS custody. Any increase in DCS expenditures is indeterminable but expected to be minimal.

**Additional Information** - The Office of Judicial Administration currently requires all guardian ad litem (GALs) to receive 12 hours of training in several categories before acting in an official GAL capacity. One of these training items includes domestic violence. This current training curriculum could be expanded to meet the bill's requirements concerning domestic and family violence.

Current law allows juvenile courts to impose conditions for the release of a CHINS to a child's parent, guardian, or custodian. The bill specifies that a juvenile court may not order the release of a CHINS unless the court also imposes conditions to ensure the safety of a child. To the extent a court does not impose conditions for a CHINS release, state CHINS custody expenditures could increase. However, these costs could be passed on to parents, guardians, or custodians (as applicable), as ordered by the court. Any net impact on DCS custody expenditures is indeterminable, but expected to be minimal.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The bill could increase the number of petitions to modify child custody schedules due to alleged instances of domestic or family violence. Increases in modification petitions would increase civil court filing fees deposited in the General Fund. The total revenue per case would range between \$100 and \$122. The amount deposited will vary depending on whether the case is filed in a court of record or a municipal court. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases.](#)

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** If additional cases occur, revenue will be collected by certain local units. If the case is filed in a court of record, the county will receive \$32 and qualifying municipalities will receive a share of \$3. If the case is filed in a municipal court, the county receives \$20, and the municipality will receive \$37. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases.](#)

**State Agencies Affected:** Office of Judicial Administration.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, city and town courts.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Trial Court Fee Manual; <https://rules.incourts.gov/Content/gal/rule2/current.htm>

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