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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

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### SB 354 (Skinner) - Foster youth: relative placement

**Version:** April 29, 2021

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** May 20, 2021

**Policy Vote:** HUMAN S. 4 - 0, JUD. 11 - 0

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Karen French

**Bill Summary:** This bill facilitates placement of foster youths with relatives and nonrelative extended family members who have criminal records but do not present a danger to the child. The bill requires CDSS to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2023 that includes extensive data on the number of resource family applicants who applied for resource family approval to care for a relative child that were denied criminal records exemption; the number of resource family applicants who were ineligible for a criminal records exemption; the total number of administrative appeals filed by resource family applicants in response to the denial or a criminal records exemption or a determination of ineligibility for a criminal records exemption; and the number of administrative appeals in which the denial or determination of the department or other approving entity was upheld, as provided. Further requires CDSS to stratify the data by a variety of demographic characteristics, including, as a minimum, by race, income level, and county.

### \*\*\*\*\* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE \*\*\*\*\*

The following information is revised to reflect amendments  
adopted by the committee on May 20, 2021

#### Fiscal Impact:

- CDSS report staff costs of \$713,000 FY 2021-2022 and Ongoing Annual Costs - \$687,000 (General Fund)
- County social workers increased staff time to investigate and prepare for hearings and other potential mandated local costs. Following 2011 realignment, state-mandated local costs are not reimbursable, but instead must be funded by the state pursuant to Proposition 30.
- Juvenile Dependency Court—Unknown, workload cost pressures to the courts to for increased hearing time to make the court finding on risk. While the superior courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations. For illustrative purposes, the Governor's proposed 2021-2022 budget would appropriate \$118.3 million from the General Fund to backfill continued reduction in fine and fee revenue for trial court operations. (General Fund-Trial Court Trust Fund)

**Author Amendments:** Amend to specify the Child Welfare Council, instead of the CDSS, to provide the required report to the Legislature through its existing work.

**Committee Amendments:** None

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