

Amendment to SB 582-FN

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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3 AN ACT authorizing an assessment to determine appropriate caseload and workload standards  
4 for the division for children, youth and families; establishing additional child  
5 protection services positions in the division for children, youth and families; relative  
6 to foster care and adoption programs and services; and making appropriations  
7 therefor.  
8

9 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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11 1 Department of Health and Human Services; Division for Children, Youth and Families;  
12 Assessment to Determine Appropriate Caseload and Workload Standards for Child Protection Staff.  
13 The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall conduct an assessment to  
14 determine appropriate caseload and/or workload standards for the department's division for  
15 children, youth and families' child protection staff that are consistent with the goals of the agency's  
16 practice model and that will enable the agency to fulfill its statutory mission to protect children  
17 from abuse and neglect. In conducting the assessment, the department may solicit information  
18 from experts, community stakeholders, and national leaders, and shall consider caseload trends and  
19 the impact of caseloads and workloads on recruitment and retention and the supervision and  
20 training of department staff. On or before January 1, 2019, the department shall report the  
21 findings of its assessment, along with the department's recommendations for establishing and  
22 maintaining appropriate caseload and/or workload standards and the department's estimate of the  
23 cost to implement those recommendations, to the house health, human services and elderly affairs  
24 committee and senate health and human services committee and the house and senate finance  
25 committees.

26 2 Department of Health and Human Services; Appropriation; Assessment. For the fiscal year  
27 ending June 30, 2019, the sum of \$100,000 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and  
28 human services for the purpose of conducting the assessment under section 1 of this act. This  
29 appropriation is in addition to any other funds appropriated to the department. The governor is  
30 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise  
31 appropriated.

32 3 Department of Health and Human Services; Division for Children Youth and Families;  
33 Classified Positions Established. The following classified positions are hereby established in the  
34 department of health and human services, division for children, youth and families:

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1           I. Thirteen child protection social worker I positions, at labor grade 18.

2           II. Two supervisor IV positions, at labor grade 25.

3           4 Department of Health and Human Services; Appropriation; Positions. For the fiscal year  
4 ending June 30, 2019, the sum of \$1,100,000 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and  
5 human services for the purpose of funding the positions established in section 3 of this act. This  
6 appropriation is in addition to any other funds appropriated to the department. The governor is  
7 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise  
8 appropriated.

9           5 Department of Health and Human Services; Appropriation; Foster Care and Adoption  
10 Programs and Services. The sum of \$1,100,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, is hereby  
11 appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of funding foster care  
12 and adoption programs and services pursuant to RSA 170-G:3. This appropriation is in addition to  
13 any other funds appropriated to the department. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for  
14 said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

15          6 Department of Health and Human Services; Transfer of Funds; Foster Care Rate Increases.  
16 The department of health and human services may transfer up to \$429,000 of existing general fund  
17 appropriations in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, from account 05-95-47-470010-7948,  
18 Medicaid Care Management, to account 05-95-42-421010-2958, Child Family Services, for the  
19 purpose of funding foster care rate increases. This transfer shall not require prior approval of the  
20 fiscal committee of the general court, nor shall fiscal committee approval be required for the  
21 department to accept any federal matching funds for the purposes of this section.

22          7 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

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2018-0990s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Directs the department of health and human services to conduct an assessment to determine appropriate caseload and workload standards for child protection staff and makes an appropriation for such purpose.

II. Makes appropriations to the department of health and human services for additional child protection staff, and for foster care and adoption programs and services.

III. Authorizes the department of health and human services to transfer certain funds for the purpose of funding foster care rate increases.