

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 28, 2019

TO: Honorable Lois W. Kolkhorst, Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: John McGeady, Assistant Director Sarah Keyton, Assistant Director
Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **SB1535** by Menéndez (Relating to a complaint made by a foster child or youth.),
Committee Report 1st House, Substituted

<p>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</p>
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The bill would amend Chapter 263 of the Family Code to require notification of the outcome of certain investigations involving a child in foster care to the child. The bill would also amend Chapter 531 of the Government Code to require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) child care licensing division to provide written notice to the foster care ombudsman whether the agencies accepted or rejected the ombudsman's recommended corrective action and the reason for any rejection. It also allows a child in foster care served by a contractor to make a complaint directly to the division of the ombudsman, which must provide written notice of the results of the investigation of the complaint to the child, the contractor, and DFPS. DFPS and HHSC have indicated that the provisions of the bill could be implemented using existing resources. The bill would take effect immediately upon receiving a two-thirds majority vote in each house. Otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 529 Health and Human Services Commission, 530 Family and Protective Services, Department of

LBB Staff: WP, AKi, JQ, ND