

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 6, 2025

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

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB451 by Thompson (Relating to a screening for the risk of commercial sexual exploitation of certain children.), **Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB451, Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted: a negative impact of (\$1,126,802) through the biennium ending August 31, 2027.

The Department of Family and Protective Services and the Juvenile Justice Department are required to implement a provision of the bill only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the Department of Family and Protective Services and the Juvenile Justice Department may, but are not required to, implement a provision of the bill using other appropriations available for that purpose.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five- Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</i>
2026	(\$692,140)
2027	(\$434,662)
2028	\$0
2029	\$0
2030	\$0

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund</i>	<i>Probable Savings/(Cost) from GR Match For Medicaid</i>	<i>Probable Savings/(Cost) from Federal Funds</i>
	1	758	555
2026	(\$685,968)	(\$6,172)	(\$90,466)
2027	(\$430,789)	(\$3,873)	(\$58,900)
2028	\$0	\$0	\$0
2029	\$0	\$0	\$0
2030	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to screen for the risk of commercial sexual exploitation using a validated, evidence-informed tool selected by the Child Sex

Trafficking Prevention Unit no later than 45 days after a child enters the conservatorship of DFPS if the validation guidelines based on the child's age indicate the screening is appropriate or concerns of commercial sexual exploitation exist.

The bill would require juvenile probation departments to screen for risk of commercial sexual exploitation using a validated, evidence-informed tool selected by the Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit before the disposition of a child's case.

Methodology

To date, the Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit has allowed DFPS to utilize the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) created by the West Coast Children's Clinic as an assessment tool for children 10 and older. This analysis assumes that DFPS would continue to utilize this screening tool and that it will be modified to assess children under the age of 10. According to DFPS, the agency, including Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCC) in Community-based Care regions, will be able to train staff within existing appropriations but the staff who conduct the training will be need to be certified. This analysis assumes a total 28.0 DFPS and SSCC Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) would need to become certified and each certification will cost \$260, resulting in an estimated one-time need of \$7,280 in All Funds in fiscal year 2026.

It is also assumed that to ensure that assessments are done for all appropriate children and have the information be included in their case file, upgrades would be needed for the Information Management Protecting Children and Adults in Texas (IMPACT) system. The changes would integrate the screening tool into the system of record in IMPACT. Additionally, it is assumed that DFPS would include the Single Source Continuum Contractors in the design and development process to ensure their assessments are included in IMPACT. Currently, the screening tool is a standalone software that requires manual entry and is difficult to be used for monitoring and compliance. To upgrade IMPACT, this analysis assumes the need of 3.0 System Analyst V Contracted FTEs in fiscal year 2026 and 2.0 System Analyst V Contracted FTEs in fiscal year 2027.

It is assumed that any costs to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department could be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Technology

Technology related costs including the enhancements to the IMPACT system are estimated to be \$674,604 in fiscal year 2026 and \$456,482 in fiscal year 2027.

Local Government Impact

The fiscal impact to juvenile probation departments cannot be determined. The impact would depend on if the local jurisdiction are already providing assessments or if they would need to hire someone to conduct the assessments. Additionally, the impact would also depend on if the juvenile probation departments will be using the existing CSE-IT tool or if they would need to use and learn a new tool.

Source Agencies: 530 Family and Protective Services, Department of, 644 Juvenile Justice Department

LBB Staff: JMc, NPe, ER, AN, NV