

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact, in the form of a potential decrease in expenditures, is indeterminable.

If the Department of Family Services (DFS) were fully merged into the Department of Health (DOH), it is likely that some efficiencies in support service/administrative functions and some programming/operations could be found over time. The DFS Director position, as well as some other DFS senior administrator positions, may be reclassified to lower levels or eliminated. Additionally, some operational functions in the field could be evaluated for efficiencies (e.g., bulk/joined purchasing at facilities, co-located field offices in some communities, etc.).

As required by this bill in Section 2, subsection (d), the DOH would prepare a status report by October 1, 2018 containing recommendations for consolidated programming, potential costs of consolidation, statutory redundancies, and any other factors relevant to the transfer of programs and functions between agencies (e.g., further operational efficiencies). The bill requires the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee to consider the status report and to develop legislation it deems appropriate to implement the recommendations.

Therefore, the fiscal impact of this consolidation is indeterminable at this time, as that will take time to study, prepare, and report out on, as the bill requires.