

Legislative Analysis



JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES: ELIMINATE RAISE THE AGE FUND

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Senate Bill 935 as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. Sarah Anthony
Senate Committee: Appropriations [Discharged]
House Committee: Appropriations
Complete to 9-20-24

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 935 would amend the Social Welfare Act to eliminate the Raise the Age Fund. The Raise the Age Fund was created to reimburse counties for the cost of juvenile justice services for 17-year-old offenders that are not eligible for reimbursement from the Child Care Fund, such as technology costs and attorney fees. Counties are required to submit requests for reimbursement from both the Child Care Fund and Raise the Age Fund, along with documentation of the previous year's juvenile justice expenditures, for approval by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Eligible costs for reimbursement from the Child Care Fund include personnel costs, contracted staffing, programming, or services, indirect administrative costs, as well as the general cost of care for a youth placed in juvenile justice system.

The Raise the Age Fund is part of a larger legislative package known as Raise the Age, which went into effect in FY 2021-22. The goal of Raise the Age is to place youths aged 17 years of age at the time of their offense in juvenile justice care, rather than their being treated as adults and placed in an adult correctional facility.

MCL 400.117i

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 935 would create state savings for DHHS and would increase expenditures for counties by up to \$13.2 million. The bill eliminates the Raise the Age Fund, which reimburses counties for costs related to juvenile justice services that are not eligible for reimbursement from the Child Care Fund. In FY 2023-24, \$13.2 million GF/GP was appropriated for the fund. The FY 2024-25 DHHS budget assumes \$13.2 million GF/GP savings from the fund's elimination.

While the elimination of the Raise the Age Fund would increase expenditures for counties, it cannot be assumed that expenditures would increase by an amount equal to the state's savings. The Raise the Age Fund was intended to be a temporary measure to ease the fiscal burden to counties following the implementation on the Raise the Age legislation. This was intended to give counties time to adjust their juvenile justice funding to eventually operate without the need for additional funding from the state.

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