SENATE BILL NO. 79–COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(ON BEHALF OF LYON COUNTY)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to child protective services. (BDR 38-494)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State Highway Fund: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets [~~omitted material~~] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the protection of children; prescribing the manner for determining certain assessments for the provision of child protective services; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

In general, existing law requires each county whose population is less than 100,000 (currently all counties except Clark and Washoe Counties) to pay an assessment to the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Human Services. (NRS 432B.326) **Section 1** of this bill prescribes the manner in which the assessment owed by each such county is determined. **Section 1** additionally provides for a reduction in the assessment owed by a county that has a sustained reduction in the utilization of child protective services over two consecutive bienniums.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 432B.326 is hereby amended to read as follows:

432B.326 1. Unless an exemption is approved pursuant to subsection [~~4,~~] ***7,*** each county whose population is less than 100,000 shall pay an assessment each fiscal year to the Division of Child and Family Services [~~in an amount which does not exceed the amount~~

~~authorized by the Legislature]~~ for the provision of child protective services by the Division in the county during that year.

2. ~~[The]~~ ***Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, the total amount of the assessments required to be paid pursuant to subsection 1 must equal the amount authorized by the Legislature for the provision of child protective services by the Division in counties whose population is less than 100,000.***

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, the assessment owed by each assessed county equals the sum of:

(a) Fifty percent of the total amount of the assessments prescribed by subsection 2, divided by the total number of pupils in all assessed counties in the immediately preceding school year and multiplied by the number of pupils in that school year in the county for which the assessment is being calculated; and

(b) Fifty percent of the total amount of the assessments prescribed by subsection 2, divided by the average annual number of children in all assessed counties who were the subject of a report that was screened in during the immediately preceding 3 fiscal years and multiplied by the average annual number of such children in the county for which the assessment is being calculated during those fiscal years.

4. On or before May 1 of each year, the Division shall provide each ***assessed*** county ~~[whose population is less than 100,000, on or before May 1 of each year,]~~ with an estimate of the amount of the assessment. The estimate becomes the amount of the assessment unless the county is notified of a change within 2 weeks after the date on which the county contribution is approved by the Legislature. The county shall pay the assessment:

(a) In full within 30 days after the amount of the assessment becomes final; or

(b) In equal quarterly installments on or before the first day of July, October, January and April, respectively.

~~[3.]~~ ***5.*** Money paid by a county pursuant to this section must be deposited by the Division with the State Treasurer, and the Division shall expend the money in accordance with the approved budget of the Division.

~~[4.]~~ ***6. If an assessed county has a sustained reduction in the utilization of child protective services over two consecutive bienniums, the Division shall, in consultation with the county:***

(a) Determine the amount by which the operating costs attributable to the provision of child protective services by the Division in the county may be reduced as a result of the reduction in utilization. In making such a determination, the Division shall ensure that the reduction does not adversely affect compliance

with applicable federal law and the standards for child welfare services adopted pursuant to NRS 432B.190.

(b) Reduce the assessment otherwise owed by the county pursuant to subsection 3 by the amount determined pursuant to paragraph (a).

7. A county whose population is less than 100,000 may submit a proposal to the Governor for the county to carry out child protective services for the county. If the Governor approves the proposal, the Governor must submit a recommendation to the Interim Finance Committee to exempt the county from the assessment required pursuant to subsection 1. The Interim Finance Committee, upon receiving the recommendation from the Governor, shall consider the proposal and determine whether to approve the exemption. In considering whether to approve the exemption, the Interim Finance Committee shall consider, among other things, the best interests of the State, the effect of the exemption and the intent of the Legislature in requiring the assessment to be paid by the county.

8. As used in this section, a report concerning the possible abuse or neglect of a child is "screened in" if the report requires an investigation pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 432B.260 or an agency which provides child welfare services determines pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 432B.260 that an investigation is warranted.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2027.

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